

Hafa Adai!

Senate confirms nomination of Taijeron, Gerrard, Sanchez. PAGE 2
3 lawyers, Hartig oppose proposed bail reform bill. PAGE 3

\$1

Saipan Tribune

Korea Nat'l Theatre performs Marianas song

The National Theatre of Korea performs an original arrangement of *Marianas Way* by Marianas recording artist JJ Concepcion on May 11, 2023, in Seoul.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

For the first time the National Theater of Korea—the country's only producing theater presenting traditional Korean performance and music—has presented a popular song from the Marianas.

See KOREA on Page 4



Volume XXXIII, Issue No. 98

THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2023

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Fed programs owe IT&E \$222.39K

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Several federal programs owe telecommunication firm IT&E about \$222,389 in total for communication



Norita

services that, if not settled immediately, could result in them being disconnected.

Finance Secretary Tracy B. Norita notified agency

See FED on Page 4

BIDEN CANCELS TRIP TO PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Hopes for historic Pacific visit dashed

By NICK PERRY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—Papua New

Guinea had declared next Monday a public holiday in anticipation of an historic visit by U.S. President Joe Biden

See HOPES on Page 4



SITE VISIT TO KALABERA CAVE

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios accompanies White House Intergovernmental Affairs associate director for Puerto Rico and Territories Gretchen Sierra-Zorita and newly appointed director of Office of Insular Affairs John D. Brewer on a site visit to the Kalabera Cave, a project funded by the OIA as part of the CNMI's capital improvement project for Economic Development. Joining them are Capital Improvement Program administrator Elizabeth S. Balajadia, CIP project manager Tim Lang, CIP technical representative Nerissa B. Karakaya, and OIA field representative Harry C. Blanco. Discussions and activities aimed at repairing and improving the site are currently underway.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN
Days until
'touchback rule'
takes effect on
Sept. 30, 2023:
135

CUC issues disconnection notices to OAG, 9 others

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has issued discon-

nection notices last week to the Office of the Attorney General, Northern Marianas College, and eight other

See CUC on Page 4

INSIDE



BUSINESS

Saipan's KFC and Taco Bell now accept online orders and delivery as they expand their reach.

PAGE 12



ENVIRONMENT

The 27 European Union countries have adopted rules that ban products that fuel deforestation.

PAGE 14



LIFE & STYLE

Danny Masterson drugged women's drinks so he could rape them, a prosecutor told jurors.

PAGE 15



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Local



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, second from left, and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, rightmost, pose with Marianas Visitor Authority officials after administering the oath of office to Jamika R. Taijeron and Sachiko N. Gerrard to serve on the MVA board of directors.

Senate confirms nomination of Taijeron, Gerrard, Sanchez

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Senate unanimously confirmed Tuesday afternoon the appointment of Jamika R. Taijeron and Sachiko N. Gerrard to serve as members of the Marianas Visitors Authority board, and Simon A. Sanchez to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board.

Taijeron, Gerrard, and Sanchez would each serve a four-year term.

Taijeron, who is the manager of DFS Group Ltd., will be representing Saipan.

Gerrard, who is the acting general manager of Aqua Resort Club, will be representing Saipan businesses. She will serve the remaining term vacated by Thomas T. H. Li, which will expire on July 17, 2023. She will subsequently serve a four-year term.

Sanchez, who is a member of the Guam Consolidated Commission on Utilities, is representing as an off-island member with utility management experience.

Before the voting for their confirmation in Tuesday's special Senate session, Senate Executive Appointments and Government Investigations Committee vice chair Sen. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota) said that Taijeron shared during the hearing with the committee new and fresh ideas as she works with the MVA board

as it plans for the future.

Manglona said that, according to Taijeron, the CNMI must utilize the beauty of the islands and unique experiences the CNMI offers in terms of making the CNMI stand out.



Manglona

The senator said Gerrard's experiences in the hotel industry, which includes a greater understanding of the Japan market, are characteristics

needed to market the CNMI in Asian countries as well as promote the Commonwealth, with deep knowledge of what tourists look for.

Manglona said that Sanchez possesses extensive knowledge in utilities industry, having 20 years of experience in the Guam Consolidated Commission on Utilities and serving under different capacities, including a 12-year chairmanship term. Manglona said that Sanchez has shared his vision and hopes that they address a lot of the issues surrounding utility rates and services in the CNMI. He said the committee appreciates Sanchez willingness to offer his services to the CNMI.

All eight senators present voted for the adoption of the committee's reports that recommended the confirmation of the nominations of Taijeron, Gerrard, and Sanchez. Committee chair Sen. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) was absent but was excused from the session.

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3 lawyers, Hartig oppose proposed bail reform bill

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» **Glass says bill just focuses on repeat violent offenders**



Berline



Hodson



Glass



Torres

Three lawyers and Chief Public Defender Douglas Hartig are strongly opposed to a bill that intends to narrow the right to bail, imposes stricter conditions for release, and applies stronger enforcement of bail conditions.

CNMI Chief Solicitor Robert Glass, however, defends the legislation, House Bill 23-33, saying this really focuses on repeat violent offenders that have violated the conditions of their release and probation.

Rachel Anne Masga Sablan, who is the cousin of the late Keisha King, after whom the proposed bill is named, testified that she, along with her family, support the bill to ensure the safety of those with any connection to a convicted felon.

All three opinions on the bill were brought up during the public hearing on the bill last Tuesday by the House of Representatives Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee. The legislation, "The Keisha King Bail Reform Act.," was introduced by committee chair Rep. Marissa Renee Flores (Ind-Saipan).

King was killed on March 12, 2020 by her boyfriend, Gordon Castro, a convicted felon with a substantial criminal history, who shot her.

One of the lawyers opposed to the bill, Charity Hodson, said she joins in the written comments on the bill submitted to the committee by Hartig and Robert T. Torres.

Hodson described the bill as an "incredible violation" of the rights of people in the CNMI and that it undermines the principle of "innocent until proven guilty."

"It unfairly targets anyone with a prior felony conviction, regardless of how long ago it occurred, or what type of felony it was, in total disregard to any possibility of rehabilitation or reintegration into the community," she said.

Hodson said the bill eliminates any release on personal recognizance if there is an allegation of domestic violence, any prior felony conviction

viction or any previous failure to appear, regardless of what that previous failure to

appear was based upon.

She said eliminating release on personal recognizance

on these grounds is a massive step backward. Hodson said it disregards the prog-

ress made in criminal justice reform, which the CNMI has committed itself to, already with positive outcomes.

She cited an example the

CNMI drug court system, which she said been seen as having a positive effect and rehabilitates individuals.

See 3 **LAWYERS** on Page 4

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HOPES

From Page 1

and other leaders from the region. Police were tightening security, billboards were going up, and people were getting ready to sing and dance in the streets. Expectations were high for what would have been the first visit by a sitting U.S. president to any Pacific Island nation.

FED

From Page 1

heads last Tuesday that several federal programs have been found to have an outstanding balance with Micronesian Telecommunications Corp., which does business as IT&E, for communication services. Norita stated in her memorandum that these federal programs will be given until May 31, 2023, to clear or dispute these outstanding balances. “Any remaining account balances will render accounts subject to disconnection,” she said. The Finance secretary said invoices pertaining to these balances must be cleared and paid immediately. She urged all federal programs, which are in the list of 70 accounts with outstanding billings, to reconcile accounts and process invoices for payment.

CUC

From Page 1

agencies over failure to pay past due utility billings as of March 31, 2023. CUC board of directors chair Janice A. Tenorio and CUC acting executive director Betty G. Terlaje disclosed yesterday that disconnection notices were delivered Wednesday last week to the OAG, NMC, the Marianas Visitors Authority, Mayor of the Northern Islands, Northern Mariana Islands Settlement Fund, Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission, and Department of Public Lands. The following day, Thursday, CUC delivered disconnection notices to the Office of the Mayor of Rota, Office of the Mayor of Saipan, and Office of the Mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan. Tenorio said it’s been many years now since CUC issued disconnection notices to government agencies.

KOREA

From Page 1

The song *Marianas Way* by JJ Concepcion was performed in a Korean arrangement as part of the theatre’s “Midday Concert” on May 11, 2023, in Seoul. The arrangement was jointly coordinated by NTOK and Marianas Visitors Authority. The “Midday Concert” aims to showcase the laidback sentiment of the Marianas in a rhythmical performance with traditional Korean musical instruments. The arranged song was titled *Scenes by the Sea*. “I am honored that my music and the music of the Marianas will be

“I am very honored that he has fulfilled his promise to me to visit our country,” Papua New Guinea Prime Minister James Marape had written on Facebook. Those expectations were dashed Wednesday when Biden canceled the visit to focus on debt limit talks at home. To be sure, many of the festivities will still be going ahead. Biden’s planned three-hour stopover—sand-

It was not immediately learned why these accounts remain outstanding. Norita said if the programs have a dispute on any pending balances, they should provide their breakdown of the account, invoice, amount, and drawdown date. Norita also asked the programs to indicate if any credits were applied to accounts, as this may have been done in the error by the vendor. “Disputed accounts may need further investigation and resolution with IT&E if payments have been applied incorrectly,” she said. Norita’s list of federal programs having outstanding billings include the Department of Public Safety with 18 accounts, and Department of Lands and Natural Resources and Department of Community and Cultural Affairs each with 16 accounts. Also on the list are the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality-Coastal Resources Management and

“Hopefully, we’ll be able to work with the administration and the autonomous agencies in regards to resolving their arrears,” Tenorio said. CUC gave the OAG and the nine agencies until May 24 to pay or settle their past due utility billings, or else power and water services will be disconnected the following day, May 25. According to the CUC, the OAG owes \$33,618; NMC \$52,522; MVA, \$24,407; Mayor of the Northern Islands, \$19,940; NMI Settlement Fund, \$49,917; Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission, \$46,781; DPL, \$694,255; Mayor of Rota, \$115,645; Mayor of Saipan, \$64,331; and Mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan, \$730,199. Terlaje said many of the government agencies that were issued notices called them already and are meeting with CUC’s Customer Service and the accountant who’s in charge of government accounts. Terlaje said they’re reconciling

wiched between the Group of Seven meeting of wealthy democracies in Japan and a now-scrapped trip to Australia—was timed to coincide with a trip by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who will still meet with Pacific Island leaders to discuss ways to better cooperate. But now that Biden plans to return home directly after the G-7 meeting, many in Papua New Guinea are feeling deflated. Steven Ranewa, a lawyer in the

Division of Environmental Quality; Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs; CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities; CNMI Office of Planning and Development; and Criminal Justice Planning Agency. Other federal programs on the list are the Department of Labor-OSHA Consultation; CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management; Commonwealth Medicaid Office; Office of Grants Management; Office of the Governor-Public Assistance Office; Workforce Investment Agency; Capital Improvement Projects; and Water Task Force. Of the 70 accounts, only three are current—two accounts of the DLNR Sea Turtle Program, and one account of the DLNR Division of Fish and Wildlife Administration. The Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority account has the highest balance, \$65,750, and is over 120 days aging.

ills for those that feel that the charges are not accurate. “Some of them asked if they can pay the water and wastewater, but they want to look further into the electric and verify some of the numbers that they have,” she said. Terlaje said it’s a 14-day notice for the reason that they can verify and come back to them and make sure they agree with the number. She said some of them are disputing the water or sewer charges so they are meeting to resolve the matter. “There’s a process to dispute. You just don’t dispute after you get a notice. You have to dispute when you get your bill. If you feel that it’s incorrect, you can’t wait two years later and dispute because then we have no means to verify whether the water is leaking,” Terlaje said.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

ists about the Marianas,” said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. “We are grateful for the collaboration to share the beauty of our islands in this unique auditory experience.” The Marianas, which include Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, has become one of the most popular destinations for Korean travelers. Home to more than 20 ethnic groups, including the indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian, as well as Koreans, the islands have a unique culture that is an amalgamation of many stories. This June one of the major festivals of the Marianas will be held every Saturday, the Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden. (MVA)

capital, Port Moresby, said Biden’s planned visit had been very big news across the Pacific, and he planned to watch the motorcades from the street. “Everyone was excited,” he said. “But now that it’s been canceled, it’s really demoralizing.” Konio Anu, who manages a lodge in the capital, said she was saddened

PET OF THE WEEK

Bruzzer

Bruzzer walks well on a leash, loves treats, loves going for walks, and would not pass up some cuddles and pets. This 3-year-old, male, pitbull mix is a super friendly and sweet boy. He has a minor skin condition that is clearing up and he has been given Bravecto and has also been dewormed. Do not miss your opportunity to be loved by this sweet boy and give him the forever home that he deserves. Bruzzer is available for adoption at the Saipan Mayor’s Office Animal Shelter in As Perdido. Hours are from Monday to Friday, 7:30am to 4:30pm. Contact them at (670)-234-3647 (DOGS).



For inquiries about veterinary services please reach out to Saipan Humane Society at info@saipan-humane.org or Whatsapp +1 (670) 838-7387.

Saipan Tribune is partnering with Lauren Cabrera, founder of the Saipan Humane Society, in collaboration with the SMO Animal Shelter in As Perdido, to feature their adoptable dogs into loving homes. Whether you are looking for a guard dog, lap dog, hiking buddy, or playful puppy, they most likely have the dog for you!

3 LAWYERS

From Page 3

The lawyer said the CNMI criminal justice system should instead encourage rehabilitation, reduce recidivism, and ensure fair and equal treatment. “This bill moves in an opposite direction and it creates unnecessary barriers to pretrial release,” said Hodson as she asked the committee to reject the bill. Hodson also explained her opposition to House Bill 23-42, that seeks to amend procedures for a preliminary hearing in a criminal case. Torres, who is a former chief Public Defender and former attorney general, said that Hartig, who is assisting the CNMI mock trial team off-island, had asked for an opportunity to be able to testify and that has not been accommodated. Torres said those who are engaged in criminal justice should be allowed to fully participate in this process. “Otherwise, it is a hollow exercise in protecting constitutional rights,” Torres said. The lawyer said they defend not criminals, but the Constitution and their rights. “Presumed guilt is an absolute affront to the constitutional rights of the presumption of innocence and the Sixth Amendment right to bail,” he said. Torres said the committee should stand on the Constitution before it passes laws that trample upon them. He said what lawmakers sometimes do is import legislation from other states under the guise that

they are good for the CNMI. “Well, there’s a reason we are in the Commonwealth and not in Texas or California, or any draconian states that are tough on law and do not give balance to a person’s right to justice,” Torres said. He said it is true that that there have been instances like that of the King family where there was an unfortunate incident. “But you have to balance the rights of individuals, and ensure that the criminal justice system ensures justice for those convicted and let those who are innocent remain innocent and go free. And that is why you have the Judiciary,” Torres said. He said this proposed legislation does nothing short of intruding and subverting the Judiciary’s role to ensure that justice is done. “We ask this committee to be engaged in the process, to be careful and think things through that legislation must be supported by facts and data and objective data, not emotionally driven,” Torres added. Torres also discussed his opposition to House Bill 23-42, or the preliminary hearing legislation. Veteran lawyer Bruce Berline said he wholly supports the comments made by Hodson and Torres. Berline said there are many problems with H. B. 23-33, as well as H.B. 23-42. He said he would request as Torres suggested that further discussion should be done about any changes to the CNMI’s criminal justice procedure that has been in effect for years.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com



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Drowned man’s wife seeks financial aid for burial

The wife of the spearfisherman who drowned at the Lower Base beach last March 28 is asking the United Filipino Organization for financial aid to help with her husband’s funeral costs. Rosalie Molijar told UFO that she cannot financially shoulder the cost to repatriate her husband’s body for burial in the Philippines and is asking the group for its help. Ronald Molijar was the CNMI’s first fatal drowning this year after he was swept out to sea last March 26 while spearfishing with friends. His body was later recovered. For those who want to help, you may contact the UFO through their Facebook page for more details. **(Kimberly B. Esmores)**

OPENING COLOR GUARD

The Manta Ray Battalion Color Guard of Saipan Southern High School supports the opening ceremony for the Southern Isla Community Health Center in San Antonio last May 13. The cadets presented the national colors for the U.S. and the CNMI flags, with the anthems sung by cadet 2Lt Logan Mendiola. The Manta Ray Battalion Color Guard posted the colors and later retired them. The U.S. flag was carried by cadet Maj. Malention Amandus, who commanded the Color Guard Team. He was flanked by cadet SSG Eman Barce as the left guard and cadet 2Lt Jolash Saluta as the right guard. Cadet 1SG Sean Villaluz carried the CNMI flag. Senior Army instructor, Command Sgt. Ma. (Ret.) Richard Basa, accompanied the color guard team.




PRESENTING THE COLORS

The Kagman High School Color Guard presented the colors at the annual Track & Field event held at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium’s track in Oleai last Friday, May 5, 2023. The event was the middle school and high school championships. The Kagman High JROTC Color Guard consisted of four members: cadet Sgt. Damian Torres, right guard; cadet 2Lt. Manuel Babauta, who held the U.S. flag; cadet 1SG Jarrod Muña, who held the CNMI flag; and cadet 2Lt Kody Palacios, right guard.




2 from NMI join SNHU winter President’s List

MANCHESTER, NH—Two students from the CNMI have been named to the winter 2023 President’s List of the Southern New Hampshire University. The winter terms run from January to May. The two CNMI students are Leeandra Palacios of Saipan and Raybrent Iglecias of Tinian. Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President’s List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired eight-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer. SNHU is a private, nonprofit institution with a 90-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Serving more than 170,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 accredited undergraduate, graduate and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, NH. **(PR)**



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SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF LED STREET LIGHT LUMINAIRES AND MATERIALS FOR THE STREETLIGHT EFFICIENCY PROJECT, SAIPAN.

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the supply and delivery of Light Emitting Diode (LED) streetlight luminaires and materials to promote energy and cost saving measures on the power distribution system in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded from the United States Department of the Interior (USDOIA).

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-23-021, Supply and Delivery of LED Streetlight Luminaires and Materials for the Streetlight Efficiency Project, Saipan" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on June 1, 2023 at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) of the total bid price shall accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on May 12, 2023 to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Lee T. Lieto, CUC Power Division Manager via email lee.lieto@cucgov.org; Jonathan Camacho, CUC Power Division Junior Engineer via email jonathan.camacho@cucgov.org; and Marcela Tenorio, Administrative Technician Senior via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any non-material imperfection in the bid proposal if in its sole opinion to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

Bettina G. Terlaje
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

ROBERT T. TORRES
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 500730 CK
5960 Plata Drive (Chalan Kiya)
Saipan, MP 96950
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robert.torres@rttlawgroup.com

Attorney for Petitioner Mark S. Taisacan

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF MARTIN MARATTA TAISACAN Decedent.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 23-0080

NOTICE OF HEARING AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

DATE: June 1, 2023
TIME: 10:00 a.m.
JUDGE: JOSEPH N. CAMACHO

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE MARTIN MARATTA TAISACAN OF HIS ESTATE:

NOTICE OF HEREBY GIVEN that Petitioner Mark S. Taisacan has filed a Verified Petition to Admit Estate into Probate and Appointment of Administratrix, requesting the Court to admit the Estate of Martin Maratta Taisacan into Probate and to appoint **Mark S. Taisacan as the Administrator of the Estate.** The Attorney for the Petitioner is Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, whose address is 5960 Plata Drive (Chalan Kiya), P.O. Box 500730 Saipan, MP 96950.

The hearing on the Petition is scheduled to be heard on the date at the time set forth above at the Superior Court of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons and entities should appear at the hearing. Any and all persons, creditors, or entities having claims against the deceased of his Estate are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of the publication of claim(s) will be barred. A copy of your claims should also be sent to ROBERT T. TORRES, Attorney at Law at the address hereon indicated.

Dated this 16th day of May 2023.

/s/ Clerk of Court/ Deputy Clerk of Court



PEACEFUL PROTEST

Raymond Quitugua, left, and Herman Tudela hold a peaceful protest across the District Court for the NMI building in Gualo Rai on Monday. According to the pair, they are invoking their indigenous right under the United Nation resolution 683 to address their questions about the conflicting stories regarding the CNMI national flag and the inclusion of the mwaar as they believe it is not indigenous to the Chamorro culture. **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**

Attention, writers: May write-in on Saturday

Come to the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library on Saturday, May 20, 2023 from 10am to noon for our monthly write-in. We will be checking some writing contests and sharing our efforts with each other. This is an opportunity to write with others, side-by-side, in parallel inspiration and encouragement. Write your journal. Write your family history. Write your stories novels, poems, or letters. There is no better way to leave a legacy of your experiences and life stories than through writing them down for future generations. Bring your notebooks and pens, or laptop, or other writing device and write with us. Bring your thermos of coffee or bottle of water. And see how much you can get written (or revised) in two hours! **(PR)**

Animal clinic at SMO Animal Shelter starting May 23

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Humane Society, in collaboration with volunteer veterinarians and the Saipan Dog Control Program, will soon be hosting an almost monthlong animal clinic at the Saipan Mayor's Office Animal Shelter in As Perdido.

The four-day-a-week clinic

will start next Tuesday, May 23, and will last until Wednesday, June 14.

Services include spay and neuter for dogs and female cats at \$75 and \$50 for male cats; Parvovirus vaccinations and deworming at \$20; micro-chipping at \$30; heartworm testing at \$30; kennel cough vaccination is \$30; rabies vaccination is \$40; cat combina-

tion vaccination FVRCP is \$20; while Bravecto anti-tick/flea medication prices will vary based on weight.

Volunteer vet Dr. Whitney Collins is returning to assist with the clinic again since her volunteer service here last March.

The other veterinarian wants to remain nameless as she will be surprising her

friend and is primarily doing surgery. Collins will also be doing surgery and consultations for complicated cases and rabies vaccines.

The clinic will also provide blood draws for FAVN (rabies) testing for animals moving to designated rabies-free areas like Guam, Hawaii, Japan, and other specific countries.

To self-schedule for the

clinic, visit <https://saipan-humane.org/>; message through Facebook or Instagram @saipanhumane-society; Whatsapp Saipan Humane Society at 670-838-7387; or contact the SMO Animal Shelter at (670)-234-3647 (DOGS). Their hours are from Monday to Friday, 7:30am to 4:30pm.

Lauren Cabrera, founder of SHS thanks Saipan Vegas Hotel for hosting Collins and AK Auto for providing a car for her entire stay.

She also thanked their "other generous donors that will

be providing lunches for the volunteer teams, including Godfather's Bar, The Shack, Spicy Thai, and American Pizza Bar and Grill.

"Shell even donated a gas card, and Gold's Gym donated passes for one vet who wants to work out during her long volunteer trip," Cabrera said. "We also received an advanced binocular microscope with digital camera from Brabu Pharmacy so we can conduct testing for diagnosing skin conditions, specific parasites found in feces, blood counts, and more."

SHS eyes telehealth for veterinary care



Saipan Humane Society's Lauren Cabrera and Ruby Ma pose with leading members of the Saipan Rotary Club after their presentation at the club's luncheon last Tuesday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

With the high demand for veterinary services on the islands and the current lack of veterinarians to address that demand, the newly-formed Saipan Humane Society is taking a cue from human medicine and is looking at telemedicine as a potential game-changer for animal care in the CNMI.

SHS outlined that goal, among others, in a presentation to the Saipan Rotary Club during the club's luncheon last Tuesday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan, with the main hope being able to provide services to the underserved animals and pet owners in the CNMI by bringing in vets and one day bringing pet care to every village.

Lauren Rose Cabrera, who is the SHS founder and clinic manager and co-founder of the Boonie Flight Project, as well as incoming SHS director Ruby Ma, shared with the Rotary that, soon after starting only in February, they began by administering high demand vaccines and providing flea and tick medicine.

Cabrera said doing these services required certain requirements and cost quite a lot for shipping, but they were able to do it.

She said that she and Ma, as a two-member volunteer team of SHS, are so swarmed with patients that they spend an average of 40 hours a week at the clinic, which at

the moment is a side hustle from their daytime jobs.

"We have moved very quickly to being a full-fledged vet clinic without a vet," she said.

As a certified nurse, Cabrera said they have modelled their clinical practices after what she has seen in human medicine during and post-pandemic, which was the use of telemedicine.

"So here we're doing the same thing. If you bring a sick dog into our clinic and I don't know what to do because I'm not a vet, I will gather the necessary information for a physical exam, take a video, do whatever diagnostic testing we have available, and send it all to the vet. You'll wait for like 10 minutes and then I'll come back to you with like a voice memo from the vet or...a summary of what they told me and will develop a plan of care from there. So this kind of gives us high-quality veterinary care for our pets, instead of just kind of being stuck with nothing," she said.

Cabrera and Ma said they are working on increasing access to more diagnostic testing. "We really want to be a legit real veterinary clinic here as much as possible," Cabrera said.

having some veterinarians visiting this year, including U.S. mainland-based organization Animal Balance, which will be sending a veterinarian hopefully once a per month.

"We will be hosting their [Animal Balance] first vet for two weeks in August," she said.

Another SHS dream is to provide a mobile clinic for patrons don't have transportation. Cabrera said they hope

to bring services and vaccines closer to those who need it.

"We are getting so many requests for home visits. A lot of clients here cannot afford care and our care is priced very low. So low, in fact, that we are not even paid, yet we are hoping this can become our full-time job. But right now we are working jobs on the sides so we can do this and this takes well over 40 hours a week of our time. But the price of our services are reasonably low so people can afford the care," she shared.

Cabrera and Ma said they understand the effects of the overpopulation of animals on the islands and the lack of resources to help control it.

"We founded this organization with the intention of being here long term and being able to meet the needs of the community," said Cabrera.

Ma and Cabrera said that SHS is open to receiving volunteers, donations, and sponsorship. To learn more, visit saipanhumane.org. On the website you can also see scheduling and learn how you can sign up for the next spay and neuter clinic this month until June.



In this file photo, veterinarian Dr. Whitney Collins, right, services a dog during one of the spay/neuter services held at the Saipan Mayor's Animal Shelter in As Perdido last January.



CEDA

COMMONWEALTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 235-7147

www.developcnmi.com



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

POSITION	COMPROLLER, exempt
LOCATION AND DEPARTMENT	CEDA SAIPAN OFFICE
PER ANNUM	Minimum \$70,000.00
EMPLOYMENT TERM	Two (2) Year Contract, renewable
EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT	HR 2023-01
OPENING DATE	05/10/2023
CLOSING DATE	05/26/2023 4:00 P.M.


Interested candidates can find the detailed job description and application form for the position on our website at <https://developcnmi.com/jva.html> or by scanning the QR code below.

Applications, along with a cover letter and CV, must be submitted to the CEDA Saipan office at 22390 Beach Road, Oleai, Unit 205, or by email to m.sablan@developcnmi.com and copied to c.kintol@developcnmi.com on or before the closing date of May 26, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

For inquiries, please contact Christy Kintol by email or at (670) 234-6245 ext. 310.

/s/ Manuel A. Sablan
Executive Director





COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
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E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cnmiports.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 03-2023

Opening date: May 08, 2023 Closing date: May 26, 2023

Location: SAIPAN	SALARY
Position(s): (1) ARFF Mechanic II	PL 6/1 to 6/12 (\$9.27/hr to \$15.85/hr)
(1) Custodial-I	PL 1/1 to 1/12 (\$7.26/hr to \$12.42/hr)
(1) Equipment Operator-I	PL 4/1 to 4/12 (\$8.41/hr to \$14.38/hr)
(1) General Maintenance-I	PL 3/1 to 3/12 (\$8.01/hr to \$13.70/hr)
(1) Master Electrician	PL 19/1 to 19/12 (17.48/hr to \$29.90/hr)
(2) Ports Police Trainee	PL 5/1 (\$8.83/hr)

Location: TINIAN

Position(s): (1) AOA Controller/Ground Maintenance-I	SALARY
(1) Custodial-I	PL 5/1 to 5/12 (\$8.83/hr to \$15.10/hr)
	PL 1/1 to 1/12 (\$7.26/hr to \$12.42/hr)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office, Tinian International Airport, or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Friday, May 26, 2023.**

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.robert@cnmiports.com and hspcialist@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXIII, Issue No. 98Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

There will be (more) blood: New FDA rules on blood donations are a step forward

Here's a question: if you examine a vial of a straight person's blood and an LGBTQ person's blood, how do you tell them apart? The answer: you don't, because while human blood may have distinctions of type and traces of the originator's general health and lifestyle, it bears no imprint of their gender or sexuality.

Yet for decades, nonsensical rules were kept in place to at first completely prevent and then significantly restrict men and trans women who had sex with men from providing blood donations, even through recent critical blood shortages around the country. That's finally changed last week as the Food and Drug Administration has adopted more sensible standards that will still take into account risky sexual practices, but without specific regard for sexual orientation or gender identity.

The reason that the rules were kept in place for so long was quite simply the offensive stereotype that men who have sex with men are more likely to have HIV that it was considered practical to completely bar them from participation rather than ask targeted questions or just screen the blood.

Even beyond the issues with this hackneyed prejudgment, it is, obviously, not actually necessary to estimate the likelihood that a sample contains certain diseases. We have long been able to pretty easily test blood to confirm whether it not it is usable, making the prohibitions even more puzzling and insulting. Certainly a patient on the operating table, facing the prospect of blood loss without a reliable replacement, will care much more about whether a batch of blood has gone through the standard rigorous testing rather than if the donor happened to be gay.

This is, incidentally, as good a representation as any of how bigotry ultimately hurts everyone, not just those to whom it is directed. For years, the blood supply was constrained essentially by remnants of the midcentury gay panic. As the shortages recede, we should have a hard think about the many other and often non-obvious ways prejudice is holding us back.

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DEFINITION OF
"INVADER"
BY THE OXFORD
DICTIONARY:

invader *noun*

🔊 /in'veɪdə(r)/

🔊 /in'veɪdər/

★ an army or a country that enters another country by force in order to take control of it; a soldier fighting in such an army

DEFINITION OF
"INVADER"
BY GREG ABBOTT,
DAN PATRICK
AND TED CRUZ:



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BRUNCH
HOUSTON
CHRONICLE

'Unprecedented by most measures': Calculating the astonishing economic costs of COVID

By **JAKUB HLÁVKA** and **ADAM ROSE**
LOS ANGELES TIMES

The economic toll of the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States will reach \$14 trillion by the end of this year, our team of economists, public policy researchers and other experts estimate. That makes it by far the costliest disaster the country has suffered this century.

Putting a price tag on all the pain, suffering and upheaval people here and around the world have experienced from the pandemic is of course hard to do. More than 1.1 million Americans have died of COVID, and many more have been hospitalized or lost loved ones.

We used data from the first 2½ years of the pandemic to forecast total economic losses from the pandemic over four years, from January 2020 through December 2023.

Our team used economic modeling to approximate the revenue lost because of mandatory business closures at the beginning of the pandemic. We also used modeling to assess the economic consequences of the many changes in personal behavior that continued long after lockdown orders were lifted, such as the tendency to voluntarily avoid restaurants, theaters and other crowded places.

The greatest losses stemmed from workplace absences and lost sales. The latter were due primarily to closed stores, reduced air travel and limited public gatherings. At the height of the pandemic, in the second quarter of 2020, our survey found that air travel fell by nearly 60%, indoor dining by 65% and in-store shopping by 43%.

The three sectors that lost the most over the first 30 months of the pandemic were air travel, dining, and health and social services, which contracted by 57.5%, 26.5% and 29.2%, respectively.

These losses were offset to a degree by surges in online purchases, a series of large government stimulus and relief packages, and an unprecedented expansion of the number of Americans working from home, many of whom were able to keep doing jobs that might otherwise have been cut.

From 2020 through 2023, the net economic output of the United States is expected to amount to about \$103 trillion. If not for the pandemic, that figure would have been about \$117 trillion, according to our analysis—nearly 14% higher in inflation-adjusted 2020 dollars.

We also estimated what the cost of the pandemic would have

been if fewer or more people had died of COVID because of more or less successful public health strategies over the first 2½ years of the pandemic.

Direct health care expenses during that period, driven mostly by hospitalization, were about \$214 billion. In the best-case scenario we analyzed, in which 65,000 Americans would have died from January 2020 through June 2022, health care costs would have been about a tenth of that figure, \$20 billion. In the worst-case scenario we analyzed, assuming about 2 million died during that period, health-related expenses would have been \$365 billion.

While we found that most economic losses from the pandemic were not because of direct health care expenditures, these scenarios show how widely those losses could have varied depending on the nation's response.

This underscores the need for better preparation for similar or even worse pandemics in the future. Economic losses could be reduced by more careful assessments of the need for mandatory closures, better communication about risk to reduce unnecessary avoidance of public spaces, and more targeted and better administered fiscal stimulus.

The COVID-19 pandemic's economic consequences for the United States are unprecedented by most measures. The estimated toll on the nation's gross domestic product is twice that of the Great Recession, 20 times that of the 9/11 terrorist attacks and at least 40 times that of any other disaster to befall the country in the 21st century.

Although the federal government has now lifted the COVID emergency declaration, the pandemic continues to affect the U.S. economy. The labor force participation rate, for example, has only recently neared pre-pandemic levels.

Our analysis was limited to the pandemic's standard economic effects. We didn't estimate a vast array of indirect costs, such as lost years of work because of premature deaths and long COVID, physical and mental health effects on the population, and the learning loss experienced by students. All of that suggests costs even greater than the astounding loss we documented.

Jakub Hlávka is an assistant research professor of health policy and management at USC's Price School of Public Policy and a fellow at the USC Schaeffer Center for Health Policy and Economics and the Center for Risk and Economic Analysis of Threats and Emergencies. Adam Rose is a research professor at the Price School and director emeritus of CREATE. This article was produced in partnership with the Conversation.

Observing International Day against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia in Micronesia

The International Day against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia, or IDAHOBIT, is recognized every year on May 17 to draw attention to human rights issues related to fellow human beings with diverse sexual orientations, gender identities, or expressions. An important recognition as it was on this day in 1990 when the World Health Organization removed homosexuality from the International Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems. Indeed, IDAHOBIT is a day to celebrate diversity and to raise awareness of the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer and other people of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities (LGBTIQ+ people). It is a day when the United Nations and its member states are reminded of the promises we made to “reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights” and to ensure that the dignity and worth of every human are never forgotten or infringed upon. We have made these promises in the Charter of the United Nations in 1945, which still guides us today.

Recognized in over 130 countries, the theme of this year’s IDAHOBIT is “Together Always: United in Diversity.” This theme was chosen in consultation with LGBTIQ+ groups from around the world as an open invitation to unity, allyship, and collective action. “Together Always: United in Diversity” allows for the celebration of human rights defenders, advances

the struggle for LGBTIQ+ rights everywhere, and provides for inclusion of and space for allies to join the movement. Space in which Micronesian communities are doing their part.

I was pleased to learn that a few days ago, the organization “i AM,” advocating for rights of the LGBTQIA+ community, held an Urohs Fashion Show in Pohnpei, showcasing traditional FSM and Pohnpeian Urohs designs made by local designers. The fashion show used models of all identities, and it was a masterclass in showing how such a display of diversity and inclusivity can be a beautiful, fun, and important event for everyone.

I was also pleased to hear about the work of Yoske “Yaya” Matul, a human rights defender from Palau and one of the founders of living all-inclusive Belau, LAIB, Palau’s first Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex and Allies (LGBTIQ+) organization. Yaya’s work was showcased by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights as part of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights Pacific Voices (#UDHR75PacificVoices) campaign, currently ongoing and will feature many others from the region.

Indeed, IDAHOBIT is a day that helps us remember to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another. A day when we recognize that everyone deserves dignity and respect, regardless of gender, sexual orientation, age, identity,

By JAAP VAN HIERDEN
Special to the Saipan Tribune



Jaap van Hierden is the resident coordinator for the United Nations in Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Kiribati. As the designated representative of the UN Secretary-General in Micronesia, the UN Resident Coordinator guides the UN’s engagement in development, humanitarian and peacebuilding activities in five Micronesian countries.

culture, and nationality. Let us use this day to build our knowledge and understanding of the legal and social barriers faced by LGBTIQ+ persons. Let us accept and support LGBTIQ+ persons ensuring that all are treated equally. And let us speak out against discrimination and proactively ensure that our homes, our social spaces and our workplaces are safe and inclusive. We all have a role to play!

In line with this year’s IDAHOBIT theme, let’s reaffirm that we are indeed together, and united in our diversity.

Shouting down racists isn’t effective. Gen Z needs to find another way

We’ve become accustomed to the weaponization of words. Words are used to divide, dehumanize and incite violence. Conservative leaders spread hateful rhetoric to whip up support for attacks on women, people of color, the LGBTQ+ community and more. Progressives fight back by trying to shout down the purveyors of bigotry.

Meanwhile, Americans are losing faith in their capacity to tap into the opposite power of words—bringing people closer

together. Polls show a tendency to avoid political discussions across party lines. Why have so many of us forsaken the remedial power of language?

In his new book “The Persuaders,” Anand Giridharadas describes how Russia’s Internet Research Agency bombarded Americans with social media posts meant to harden perceptions of our political opponents as unchangeable. He writes: “Again and again, in one way or another, the IRA posts were sending the same message: These people are not to be trusted.

By JEAN GUERRERO
Los Angeles Times



Jean Guerrero is an opinion columnist at the Los Angeles Times.

They will never change. They are who they are. And who they are is a risk to your being.”

The deterioration of our discourse is rooted in this conviction that opponents can’t be changed, except perhaps by force. The trend is especially concerning among Gen Zers, who will shape the future of this country.

About 76% of liberal college students believe shouting down a speaker is acceptable, according to the 2023 College Free Speech Rankings. Only 44% of conservative students believe the same.

On college campuses, conservatives are hosting speakers who denigrate transgender people and other groups. Opponents of such bigotry are disrupting them with their own insults, as in recent incidents at Stanford Law School, the University of Pittsburgh, UC Davis and SUNY Albany.

It’s important for Gen Z liberals to understand that many on the right really do feel persecuted. However absurd it may seem to liberals, countless conservatives think they’re under attack. Young liberals can reinforce the belief by ridiculing it or they can diffuse it with careful words rooted in compassion. Gen Z Republicans are much more socially liberal than their parents. If anybody on the right is open to persuasion, it’s them. If they’re attacked as bigots, they’re more likely to double down on harmful beliefs, including the idea that they’re the real victims of oppression.

Consider the case of Trump’s senior advisor Stephen Miller. As a student at Santa Monica High School, he often provoked his liberal classmates with incendiary monologues, lamenting the school’s multicultural events and

Spanish-language announcements. He invited controversial speakers to campus. He was called a racist by his peers, including Maria Vivanco, president of the school’s MEChA chapter at the time, who recalls verbally sparring with Miller when he picked on students who couldn’t speak English.

During the visit of right-wing provocateur Larry Elder, whom Miller invited to the school, Vivanco stood up and confronted him. “You are a racist!” she cried. Miller shouted back at her, telling her she was wrong and didn’t understand. She later told me: “He was a joke to me. Looking back, I wish I’d been like, ‘Hey, let’s go have a coffee. Let’s talk about this.’”

It may not have been her job to have sensitive conversations with someone who seemed openly hostile to her and other Latinos. But what if more people like her had done so anyway? Miller later referred to his high school experiences as “some of the toughest I faced in my life.” He wrote of classmates and teachers: “Their resistance only strengthened my resolve.”

After his school canceled the speech of another right-wing provocateur he invited to campus, David Horowitz, he forged a bond with him and Elder. Elder invited Miller on his radio show and pressured the school to let Horowitz speak. Both men became mentors to Miller, with Horowitz helping him get hired on Capitol Hill. The resistance Miller faced from his classmates didn’t change his views. Might a different approach have been more effective?

Gen Zers are more open to diverse perspectives than older generations. If any generation can come together, it’s them. But young liberals need to learn to communicate productively, placing more value on dialogue and less on derogatory judgments that are known to alienate their peers.

Of course, dialogue isn’t always possible. This was obvious in the CNN town hall with Trump, who overwhelmed his interviewer Kaitlan Collins with a deluge of lies. What Jean-Paul Sartre observed of antisemites applies more broadly to liars and demagogues: “They know that their remarks are frivolous, open to challenge. But they are amusing themselves, for it is their adversary who is obliged to use words responsibly, since he believes in words.”

When bad-faith speakers are invited to campuses, the best way for students to engage, if at all, is to call attention to their manipulative tactics, as Aaron Huertas, a political strategist, advises in his essay “A Field Guide to Bad Faith Arguments.”

Trying to get the speakers disinvited or drowning out their voices doesn’t achieve much. Those tactics play into right-wing propagandists’ hands, providing them with viral videos to show free speech under attack by fascistic liberals, even as Republican leaders ban books and punish speech that’s critical of them.

If we give up on words, the demagogues win. We can’t give them that advantage.

May is Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey aka Pepe Batbon Connolly is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is a sonnet practitioner who enjoys stargazing.

Here are some extracts of poems from a book titled Yobo: Korean American Writing in Hawaii, published 2003. I have selected some short excerpts germane to life on islands in the Pacific in honor of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. All the authors are of Korean heritage in Hawaii.

“Here where salt gathers between shell and moss stones
where birds rise off water like great winds in passing
where the sea tosses brilliance of cold stars was I born”
—from *Makai First Light* by Willyce Kim

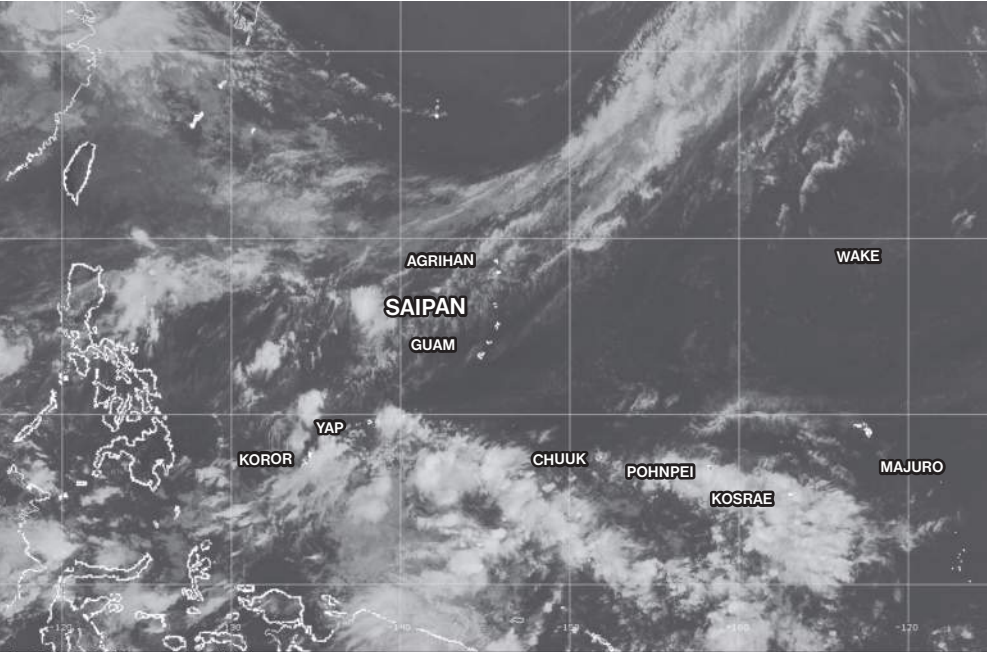
“Over the years our beach has served as every possible body
of water necessary to life – embryonic sac, birth canal, baptistry,
bathtub, fishpond, septic tank, sensory deprivation tank.
The ebb and flow of our lives fill its wading pools with unwept
tears, tears that wash out to sea and return with every tide.”
—from *Family Plot* by Robert Pennybacker whose mother’s grandparents came to Hawaii from Korea to work and live on the sugarcane and pineapple plantations around 1905

“It was another long walk through the sugarcane fields of Hawaii
where he worked for eighteen years, cutting the sweet stalks with a
machete. His right arm grew disproportionately large to the rest of
his body. He could hold three grandchildren in that arm.”
—from *Easter: Wahiawa, 1959* by Cathy Song

“Up through the crust, hot rock flows from the mantle –
we can’t say exactly how. Cold rock sinks. In the Pacific, my home
slides north over the hot spot, whose sister spots have birthed oil
and diamonds. From sea life, oil. It takes a diamond to cut a diamond. All life begins here.”
—from *Hot Rock Rising* by Debra Kang Dean

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY	
Isolated showers. Mostly sunny		Scattered showers. Partly sunny		Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny	
87°	79°	87°	78°	87°	77°	87°	77°	86°	80°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 8:05 AM, WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Quiet conditions prevail across the Marianas with just a few passing clouds seen on satellite imagery. The observations show seas of 4 to 6 feet with a water temperature of 85 degrees.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	88° / 80°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	83° / 77°	
Yap	Scattered Thunderstorms	87° / 80°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Pohnpei	Scattered Thunderstorms	88° / 79°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Majuro	Scattered Thunderstorms	85° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:47 AM	6:39 PM
Friday	5:47 AM	6:39 PM
Saturday	5:47 AM	6:39 PM
Sunday	5:47 AM	6:40 PM
Monday	5:46 AM	6:40 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	4:27 AM	5:22 PM	-
Friday	5:09 AM	6:18 PM	-
Saturday	5:54 AM	7:15 PM	-
Sunday	6:42 AM	8:12 PM	-
Monday	7:34 AM	9:08 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers/Wind	64° / 59°	
Beijing	Sunny	84° / 56°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	84° / 78°	
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	82° / 72°	
London	Cloudy	65° / 51°	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	74° / 59°	
Manila	Scattered Thunderstorms	93° / 82°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	55° / 44°	
Miami	Thunderstorms	86° / 73°	
New York	Sunny	66° / 46°	
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	81° / 65°	
Paris	Cloudy	66° / 46°	
Busan	Rain	67° / 61°	
Rome	Showers	67° / 56°	
Salem	Thunderstorms	80° / 63°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	63° / 52°	
Seoul	Light Rain	75° / 61°	
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	87° / 70°	
Washington, DC	Sunny	71° / 46°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
12:22 AM	Low Tide	0.97	
6:03 AM	High Tide	2.12	
1:10 PM	Low Tide	0.05	
7:47 PM	High Tide	1.95	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 30, 2023

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	UA184	10:25PM	4:15AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA189	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily	PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
				UA192	11:50PM	5:35AM+1	2, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/703	4:20AM	10:35PM	1, 4, 5, 7 via ICN	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily	7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
OZ626	4:20AM	7:55AM	1, 4, 5, 7	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily	OZ625	9:25PM	2:55AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily	7C3405	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily	3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun	3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily	3103	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				GUAM TO ROTA			
LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily	2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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Island Snapshots



MES MAN'AMKO

Ana Nakatsukasa, left, and Genia Draper, are named the honorary governor and honorary lieutenant governor, respectively during the *Man Āmku'* Takeover Day last May 12, 2023. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang have proclaimed the month of May 2023 as Older Americans Month, also known as *Mes Man Āmku'* and *Marameer Tuufey*, with this year's theme, "Aging Unbound."

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



Honorary lieutenant governor Genia Draper, signs a document during the *Man Āmku'* Takeover Day last May 12, 2023, at the Office of the Governor.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Honorary governor Ana Nakatsukasa meets with special assistant for Administration Oscar M. Babauta. Nakatsukasa and honorary lieutenant governor Genia Draper toured the Juan A. Sablan Building, and visited the Office of Management and Budget, Capital Improvement Project - Hazard Mitigation Program, the Special Assistant for Administration, and the Office of the Attorney General.



PEACE OFFICERS' MEMORIAL

Two police officers lay a wreath at the Department of Public Safety's Peace Officers' Memorial Monument yesterday as part of Peace Officers' Memorial Day.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



Honorary governor Ana Nakatsukasa meets with staff from the Office of the Attorney General.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Honorary governor Ana Nakatsukasa meets with fellow *Man Āmku'* Takeover Day participants from the Legislature.



Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, alongside law enforcement officers and law enforcement department heads, gather at the Department of Public Safety's Peace Officers' Memorial Monument yesterday as part of Peace Officers' Memorial Day.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Business



KFC and Taco Bell Team members share a smile as well as information on their new online efficiency via Whatsapp, Messenger, and online order service TicTuk.

CHRYSTAL MARINO

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Saipan's KFC and Taco Bell's have been carrying out online orders and delivery since December 2022 as it expands their service reach.

KFC and Taco Bell Saipan's restaurant manager Yole Aldan, restaurant supervisor Anna Guinto, and IT specialist Kenneth Redoblado shared they have begun to see a few patrons begin to utilize online services, but are seeking to get the word out even more.

In regards to how the service works, Redoblado explained that customers can message KFC and Taco Bell via WhatsApp or Messenger to place orders, and have an option of pick up at the restaurant or have it delivered to

wherever they are. There is also a link located on KFC and Taco Bell Saipan's Facebook page. The link will automatically direct them to a TicTuk website where customers can view a complete menu listing, as well as order and pay using their credit card. The order is then received by an automated machine and processed to the restaurant, also notifying the customer that their order has been placed.

Aldan shared that this process was also very helpful if a customer didn't want to stand in line. They can simply place and order, pay and pick-up, or have it delivered. Redoblado shared that if a customer doesn't know his or her location, that wasn't much of a problem.

"For the TicTuk we do have an application to pin where the customer is living."

He explained that that way the delivery personnel can locate where the customer is at that moment. At the moment they have only one delivery car but they are looking to expand more in the future. Target delivery time is 30 minutes.

Aldan shared that through this service, their team hopes to create a more efficient and convenient customer experience, all the while giving a modern, urban, techy edge. Guinto shared that if a customer exceeds \$40 worth or purchases, they will throw in a free regular two-piece chicken meal in the order as well, whether the order was from Taco Bell or KFC.

Deliveries made through these new services will not have the cash-on delivery option though.

"The cash on delivery ser-

vices we offer on our phone deliveries but for this one they need to pay [through card online]," shared Aldan.

Regarding questions on whether or not the site can be trusted with credit card information, Aldan shared that it was KFC, Taco Bell, and Pizza Hut's overhead company in Singapore, YUM, that suggested and introduced the website, and being a big company wouldn't have an intention to rip-off customers.

Aldan shared that one of the reasons for the soft launch of the service was to test run it first among employees and make sure there were no problems, and so far there haven't been any.

"We don't want our customers to be disappointed but we want them to order and come

back again," she shared. "Our goals are to always provide the best customer service we can give. That's the goal of KFC and Taco Bell. Every day when we open our doors we want our customers to be happy all the time. We want them to enter happily and exit happily and we also want them to return with an expectation of being able to get what they need and the value for their money," she said.

Aldan shared that they want to earn the trust of people, especially since the name of this particular website is a service site found in more of the Asian region of the world and is not that familiar to the U.S., compared to names like EasyEats and GrubHub. But there are some benefits to the site, according to Aldan,

in other companies offering these kinds of services, there is usually a convenience fee charged to the customer, but not when you order with them.

They do not charge the convenience fee to the customer but rather have the same prices that can be found in the restaurant. If customers decide to avail the delivery service, and not just order online, they'll receive a \$5 charge, but that too will be waived if you purchase anything amounting to, or over \$30.

"So far we are getting a good response from the customers," Aldan shared that most of the people currently ordering online, have tried it and are still using it. She shared that now, they wanted to get the word out and spread the news further, giving others opportunity to try it.

ChatGPT chief says AI should be regulated

By MATT O'BRIEN
AP TECHNOLOGY WRITER

The head of the artificial intelligence company that makes ChatGPT told Congress on Tuesday that government intervention will be critical to mitigating the risks of increasingly powerful AI systems.

"As this technology advances, we understand that people are anxious about how it could change the way we live. We are too," OpenAI CEO Sam Altman said at a Senate hearing.

Altman proposed the formation of a U.S. or global agency that would license the most powerful AI systems and have the authority to "take that license away and ensure compliance with safety standards."

His San Francisco-based startup rocketed to public attention after it released

ChatGPT late last year. The free chatbot tool answers questions with convincingly human-like responses.

What started out as a panic among educators about ChatGPT's use to cheat on homework assignments has expanded to broader concerns about the ability of the latest crop of "generative AI" tools to mislead people, spread falsehoods, violate copyright protections and upend some jobs.

And while there's no immediate sign Congress will craft sweeping new AI rules, as European lawmakers are doing, the societal concerns brought Altman and other tech CEOs to the White House earlier this month and have led U.S. agencies to promise to crack down on harmful AI products that break existing civil rights and consumer protection laws.

Sen. Richard Blumenthal,

the Connecticut Democrat who chairs the Senate Judiciary Committee's subcommittee on privacy, technology and the law, opened the hearing with a recorded speech that sounded like the senator, but was actually a voice clone trained on Blumenthal's floor speeches and reciting ChatGPT-written opening remarks.

The result was impressive, said Blumenthal, but he added, "What if I had asked it, and what if it had provided, an endorsement of Ukraine surrendering or (Russian President) Vladimir Putin's leadership?"

The overall tone of senators' questioning was polite Tuesday, a contrast to past congressional hearings in which tech and social media executives faced tough grillings over the industry's failures to manage data privacy or counter harmful misinformation.

Debt limit progress as Biden, McCarthy name top negotiators

WASHINGTON (AP)—Debt-limit talks shifted into an encouraging new phase Tuesday as President Joe Biden and House Speaker Kevin McCarthy named top emissaries to negotiate a deal to avert an unprecedented national default. Biden cut short an upcoming overseas trip in hopes of closing an agreement before a June 1 deadline.

The fresh set of negotiators means discussions are now largely narrowed to what the White House and McCarthy will accept in order to allow lawmakers to raise the debt limit in the coming days. The speaker said after a meeting with Biden and congressional leaders that a deal was "possible" by week's end, even as

— in McCarthy's view — the two sides remained far apart for the moment.

Biden was publicly upbeat after a roughly hour-long meeting in the Oval Office, despite having to cancel the Australia and Papua New Guinea portions of his overseas trip that begins Wednesday. Biden will participate in a Group of Seven summit in Hiroshima, Japan, but then return to Washington on Sunday.

"There's still work to do," Biden said. "But I made it clear to the speaker and others that we'll speak regularly over the next several days and staff's going to continue meeting daily to make sure we do not default."

Senior White House offi-

cials, as well as top aides to the four congressional leaders — McCarthy, R-Calif., Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., and House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, D-N.Y. — have been meeting daily.

But now, Steve Ricchetti, counselor to the president, Office of Management and Budget Director Shalanda Young and legislative affairs director Louisa Terrell will take the lead in negotiations for the Democratic side, while Rep. Garret Graves, R-La., a key McCarthy ally who has been a point person for the speaker on debt and budget issues, will represent Republicans.

Nation

'Evil is not going to win,' survivor of Texas mall shooting says

McKINNEY, Texas (AP)—Irvin Walker was looking for a parking place after dropping his girlfriend off at a Dallas-area mall just over a week ago when he felt the gunfire.

The 46-year-old from Lafayette, Louisiana, who was hit with bullet fragments in his head, chest, neck and arm, spoke Tuesday at Medical City McKinney in Texas about his recovery from the May 6 shooting at Allen Premium Outlets, where eight people were killed.

He said he's drawn strength from his faith, family, friends and the hospital staff.

"I think this event was just evidence of evil not winning," Walker said, sitting in a wheelchair during a news conference, wounds visible on his arm. "The power of God just showed brightly and gave me an opportunity to fight through this process, and evil is not going to win."

Hundreds of shoppers were sent scrambling for cover when a gunman stepped out of a sedan and began shooting people, cars and glass storefronts at the mall in Allen, a multicultural suburb of 105,000 located about 25 miles (40 kilometers) north of Dallas. The gunman was killed by a police officer.



Medical City McKinney trauma director Dr. Elizabeth Kim speaks Tuesday, May 16, 2023, at the hospital in McKinney, Texas, about how close patient Irvin Walker came to dying after he was shot in his vehicle at the Allen Premium Outlets.

Dr. Elizabeth Kim, trauma director at the hospital located about 3 miles (5 kilometers) from the mall, said Walker's smile after he was rushed to the emergency room was one of the "bright parts of that day."

"You were calm and you know, you were an inspiration for me," Kim told him.

Walker, who works in insurance, said that at first, he didn't even see the gunman. "I just felt the shots," he said. But walking and running from his car, he spotted the shooter.

Walker said he ran toward a

mall security guard, Christian LaCour, 20, who intercepted him and told him to sit down. LaCour was killed soon after.

"I don't have much to say after that," Walker said. "A tragedy occurred."

Allen Police Chief Brian Harvey has said LaCour was shot "while courageously remaining to help others."

Kim said Walker "had multiple wounds, too many to even count," and had several surgeries for the injuries. She described the soft tissue damage as extreme.

ACROSS THE NATION

Court rejects Holmes' latest effort to stay out of prison

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Disgraced Theranos CEO Elizabeth Holmes appears to be soon bound for prison after an appeals court Tuesday rejected her bid to remain free while she tries to overturn her conviction in a blood-testing hoax that brought her fleeting fame and fortune. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruling comes nearly three weeks after Holmes deployed a last-minute legal maneuver to delay the start of her 11-year prison sentence. She had been previously ordered to surrender to authorities on April 27 by U.S. District Judge Edward Davila, who sentenced her in November. Davila will now set a new date for Holmes, 39, to leave her current home in the San Diego area and report to prison. The punishment will separate Holmes from her current partner, William "Billy" Evans, their 1-year-old son, William, and 3-month-old daughter, Invicta. Holmes' pregnancy with Invicta—Latin for "invincible," or "undefeated"—began after a jury convicted her on four counts of fraud and conspiracy in January 2022.

Maryland governor signs gun-control bills

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (AP)—Maryland Gov. Wes Moore signed gun-control measures into law on Tuesday, and the National Rifle Association quickly filed a federal lawsuit against them. The governor signed legislation approved by state lawmakers this year in response to a U.S. Supreme Court ruling. The high court's ruling in New York State Rifle and Pistol Association v. Bruen last year ended a requirement similar to a Maryland law for people to demonstrate a particular need to get a license to carry a concealed gun in public. One of the measures Moore signed Tuesday removes the "good and

substantial reason" language from Maryland law that the court found unconstitutional in the Bruen case. But the Maryland General Assembly, which is controlled by Democrats, also tightened gun laws to prevent someone from carrying a concealed handgun in certain areas. "Gun violence is tearing apart the fabric of our communities, not just through mass shootings but through shootings that are happening in each of our communities far too often," Moore, a Democrat, said at a bill-signing ceremony.

Girl allegedly abducted by mother found safe in N. Carolina

ST. CHARLES, Ill. (AP)—A girl who was allegedly abducted by her mother in suburban Chicago nearly six years ago has been found safe hundreds of miles away in North Carolina after she was spotted at a business, authorities said. Officers found a woman and a minor child at the business in Asheville, North Carolina, and were able to confirm their identities, police said. They said the woman, Heather Unbehaun, 40, was wanted on an extradition warrant out of Illinois for child abduction. Unbehaun didn't have custody of the girl after a court order granted permanent custody to the child's father, the Kane County State's Attorney's Office said. Unbehaun posted \$25,000 bond Tuesday and was released from custody, the state's attorney's office said. Unbehaun declined to waive extradition, it said. It wasn't clear whether she had an attorney who could comment on the allegations against her. South Elgin, Illinois, police said they were notified Saturday by police in Asheville that they had received a tip from a store employee who recognized Unbehaun and recalled that the child was missing. A store employee immediately notified Asheville police, who contacted South Elgin police.

World

Putin and Zelenskyy agree to meet with 'African leaders peace mission'

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (AP)—Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy have agreed to separate meetings with a delegation of leaders from six African countries to discuss a possible plan to end the war in Ukraine, South Africa's president said Tuesday.

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa said he spoke with Putin and Zelenskyy by phone over the weekend and they each agreed to host "an African leaders peace mission" in Moscow and Kyiv, respectively.

"Principal to our discussions are efforts to find a peaceful resolution to the devastating conflict in the Ukraine," Ramaphosa said.

The leaders of Zambia, Senegal, Republic of Congo, Uganda and Egypt would make up the delegation along with Ramaphosa, he said in a statement. Putin and Zelenskyy gave him the go-ahead to "commence the preparations," the South African leader said.

Four of those six African countries — South Africa, Republic of Congo, Senegal

and Uganda—abstained from a U.N. vote last year on condemning Russia's invasion. Zambia and Egypt voted in favor of the motion.

Ramaphosa did not give a time frame or outline any parameters for the possible peace talks. Zelenskyy has said he would not consider a peace deal to end the 15-month war until Russian forces withdraw completely from Ukrainian territory.

U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres also was briefed on the African delegation's planned meetings and "welcomed the initiative," Ramaphosa said.

U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric confirmed Monday that Ramaphosa spoke to Guterres Monday afternoon during his visit to Jamaica.

"As we've said before, we are in favor of any initiative that could lead us to a peace in line with the (U.N.) Charter, in line with international law and in line with General Assembly resolutions," Dujarric said.

The announcement of the African-led peace effort came as Russia launched a heavy air attack on Kyiv.

There was no immediate reaction Tuesday from either the Kremlin or Kyiv. A readout from a phone conversation Putin and Ramaphosa had Friday said the Russian leader supported "Cyril Ramaphosa's idea about a group of African leaders participating in the discussion of the prospects of resolving the Ukrainian conflict."

It wasn't clear if that was the phone call Ramaphosa was referring to when he said he spoke with Putin over the weekend.

South Africa's leading position in the African delegation is bound to draw scrutiny. Ramaphosa's announcement came days after the U.S. ambassador accused South Africa of siding with Russia in the war in Ukraine and even providing weapons to help Moscow.

U.S. Ambassador to South Africa Reuben Brigety alleged last week that weapons and ammunition were loaded onto a Russian-flagged cargo ship at a South African naval base in December and taken to Russia. The South African government has denied it sent any weapons to Russia.

China says ready to 'smash' Taiwan self-rule

BEIJING (AP)—China is prepared to "resolutely smash any form of Taiwan independence," its military said Tuesday, as the U.S. reportedly prepares to accelerate the sale of defensive weapons and other military assistance to the self-governing island democracy.

A recent increase in exchanges between the U.S. and Taiwanese militaries is an "extremely wrong and dangerous move," Defense Ministry spokesperson Col. Tan Kefei said in a statement and video posted online.

China's People's Liberation Army "continues to strengthen military training and preparations and will resolutely smash any form of Taiwanese independence secession along with attempts at outside interference, and will resolutely defend national sovereignty and territorial integrity," Tan said, in a reference to Taiwan's closest ally, the United States.

China claims the island of 23 million people as its own territory, to be brought under its control by force if necessary.

With the world's largest navy, latest-generation

fighter jets and a huge arsenal of ballistic missiles, China has been upping its threats by sending planes and warships into waters and airspace around Taiwan. With more than 2 million members, the PLA also ranks as the world's largest standing military, although transporting even a portion of the force in the event of an invasion is considered a huge logistical challenge.

Along with daily air and sea incursions around Taiwan, Beijing has held military exercises in and around the Taiwan Strait dividing the sides, seen in part as a rehearsal for a blockade or invasion that would have massive consequences for security and economies worldwide.

Such actions seek to harass Taiwan's military and intimidate politicians and voters who will choose a new president and legislature next year.

The moves appear to have had limited effect, with most Taiwanese firmly in favor of maintaining their de facto independent status. Politicians and other public figures from Europe and the U.S. have also been making frequent trips to Taipei to show their support, despite their countries' lack

of formal diplomatic ties in deference to Beijing.

Tan's comments were prompted by a question from an unidentified reporter about reports that U.S. President Joe Biden is preparing to approve the sale of \$500 million in arms to Taiwan, as well as sending more than 100 military personnel to evaluate training methods and offer suggestions for improving the island's defenses.

Taiwan enjoys strong support from both the U.S. Democratic and Republican parties, which have called on the Biden administration to follow through on nearly \$19 billion in military items approved for sale but not yet delivered to Taiwan.

Administration officials have blamed the delayed deliveries on bottlenecks in production related to issues from the COVID-19 pandemic to limited capacity and increased demand for arms to assist Ukraine. Biden's move would allow the export of items from existing U.S. military stockpiles, speeding up the delivery of at least some of the hardware Taiwan needs to deter or repel any Chinese attack.

Environment

EU countries adopt law banning products that fuel deforestation

BRUSSELS (AP)—The 27 European Union countries on Tuesday formally adopted new rules that should help the bloc reduce its contribution to global deforestation by regulating the trade in a series of products driving the decrease in forested areas across the world.

Under the legislation, companies trading palm oil, cattle, wood, coffee, cocoa, rubber and soy will need to verify that the goods they sell in the EU haven't led to deforestation

and forest degradation anywhere in the world since 2021.

The regulation also covers derived products such as chocolate or printed paper.

Forests are an important natural means of removing greenhouse gas emissions from the atmosphere, since plants absorb carbon dioxide when they grow.

According to the World Resource Institute, a forested area the size of 10 soccer fields disappears in the world every minute and the EU says

that without the new regulation it could be responsible for the loss of 248,000 hectares (612,000 acres) of deforestation per year—a surface almost as large as member country Luxembourg.

“Effectively implemented, the law could significantly reduce greenhouse emissions that result from the clearing of tropical forests for food and other commodities,” said Stientje van Veldhoven, the World Resource Institute regional director for Europe.

“And it could help protect critical biodiversity and water resources in tropical rainforests.”

The law will force companies to show that goods they import comply with rules in the country of origin, including on human rights and the protection of Indigenous people.

Van Veldhoven added that the EU should now cooperate with producing countries to make sure they can adapt to the new legislation without hurting their economies and people's livelihoods.

“This will require incentives for vulnerable groups like smallholder farmers to shift toward deforestation-free practices, ensuring they do not get left behind in this transition,” she said.

Forests around the world are increasingly under threat from

clearance for timber and agriculture, including soybean and palm oil. The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization estimates that 420 million hectares (1.6 million square miles) of forest—an area larger than the EU—were destroyed between 1990 and 2020.



Cut down trees lie near the limit of the Cordillera Azul National Park, Peru's Amazon, on Oct. 3, 2022.

AP

GOODBYE, FISH AND CHIPS?

New England haddock imperiled by overfishing

PORTLAND, Maine (AP)—A staple seafood species caught by East Coast fishers for centuries is experiencing overfishing, and regulators have cut catch quotas by more than 80% to prevent the fish's population from collapse.

Haddock are one of the most popular Atlantic fish, and a favorite for fish and chips and other New England seafood dishes.

But fewer haddock will be caught in New England this year after regulators cut fishing quotas. A recent scientific assessment found that the Gulf of Maine haddock stock declined unexpectedly, and that meant the catch quotas for the fish were unsustainably high, federal fishing managers said.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration added the Gulf of Maine haddock stock to its overfishing list last month. The New England Fishery

Management Council, a regulatory board, has lowered catch limits of the fish in an attempt to halt the overfishing, said agency spokesperson Allison Ferreira.

However, numerous fishers said the assessment doesn't match what they're seeing on the water, where haddock appear to them to be plentiful. And the warning from the federal government arrives as more New England fishers rely on haddock than in previous decades because of the collapse of other seafood species, such as Atlantic cod.

“We seem to find plenty, but they can't,” said Terry Alexander, a Maine-based fisher who targets haddock and other species. “It's a disaster is what it is. A total, complete disaster.”

The fishery management council mandated the 84% reduction in catch quotas for the current fishing year, which

started May 1. The change applies to fishers who harvest haddock from the Gulf of Maine, a body of water off Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Maine. Fishers also harvest from Georges Bank, a fishing ground to the east where quotas were also reduced for this year, including adjoining areas overseen by Canadian officials who issued their own major cuts.

Americans are still likely to find haddock available despite the cuts because most of it is imported, according to federal data from 2021. Some countries that export haddock are also cutting quotas this year. But recent announcements of cuts by major exporters like Norway have been much lower than in the Gulf of Maine, and they represent a much larger share of global fish stocks.

Declining fish stocks threaten economies, food security and cultures around the world.

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization says more than a third of global fish stocks are overfished, and the rate of unsustainable fishing is rising. However, seafood species' health varies significantly from region to region. Some, such as American lobster, have grown in catch volume in recent decades.

The U.S. catch of haddock has fluctuated over the past century. In the early 1950s, over 150 million pounds (70 million kilograms) were caught each year. Overfishing caused catches to plummet below a million pounds (450,000 kilograms) per year in the mid-1990s, and rebuilding efforts followed. Over the past few years, catches have ranged from 12 million to 23 million pounds (25 million to 50 million kilograms).

Haddock are caught by the same fishers who target other bottom-dwelling groundfish species such as cod, pollock and flounders. They are harvested at a much higher volume than any of those fish.

NY skyscrapers turning to carbon capture to lessen climate change



Brian Asparro, chief operating officer of CarbonQuest, stands in a production room where liquid carbon dioxide is converted from a byproduct of a natural gas fired water boiler to a salable industrial product, Tuesday, April 18, 2023, in New York.

AP

NEW YORK (AP)—From the outside, the residential high-rise on Manhattan's Upper West Side looks pretty much like any other luxury building: A doorman greets visitors in a spacious lobby adorned with tapestry and marble.

Yet just below in the basement is an unusual set of equipment that no other building in New York City—indeed few in the world—can claim. In an effort to drastically reduce the 30-story building's emissions, the owners have installed a maze of twisting pipes and tanks that collect carbon dioxide from the massive, gas-fired boilers in the basement before it goes to the chimney and is released into the air.

The goal is to stop that climate-warming gas from entering the atmosphere. And there's a dire need for reducing emissions from skyscrapers like these in such a vertical city. Buildings are by far the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions here, roughly two-thirds, according to the city buildings department.

New York state's buildings also emit more air pollution than any other state's.

So building owners must make dramatic cuts starting next year or face escalating fines under a new city law. About 50,000 structures—more than half the buildings in the city, are subject to Local Law 97. Other cities such as

Boston and Denver followed suit with similar rules.

As a result, property managers are scrambling to change how their buildings operate. Some are installing carbon capture systems, which strip out carbon dioxide, direct it into tanks and prepare it for sale to other companies to make carbonated beverages, soap or concrete.

They see it as a way to meet emissions goals without having to relocate residents for extensive renovations. In this case, the carbon dioxide is sold to a concrete manufacturer in Brooklyn, where it's turned into a mineral and permanently embedded in concrete.

“We think the problem is reducing emissions as quickly as possible,” said Brian Asparro, chief operating officer of CarbonQuest, which built the system. “Time is not on our side, and this type of solution can be installed quickly, cost-effectively and without a major disruption.”

Yet critics, many of them representing environmental groups, say building managers should be going much further: They argue that to achieve meaningful reductions in emissions, buildings should be significantly upgraded and switched to renewable-powered electricity instead of continuing to burn fossil fuels. They also express concerns about the safety of storing large amounts of carbon dioxide, an asphyxiant, in a densely populated community.

Life & Style

‘Danny Masterson used drugging, Scientology to get away with rape’

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Danny Masterson drugged women’s drinks so he could rape them, then relied on his prominence in the Church of Scientology to avoid consequences for years, a prosecutor told jurors Tuesday in closing arguments at the actor’s trial.

“The defendant drugs his victims to gain control. He does this to take away his victims’ ability to consent,” Deputy District Attorney Ariel Anson told the jury of seven men and five women. “You don’t want to have sex? You don’t have a choice. The defendant makes that choice for these victims. And he does it over and over and over again.”

The 47-year-old former star of “That ‘70s Show” is on rape trial for a second time after the first ended in a mistrial in December, with a jury hopelessly deadlocked on all counts. The new jury is expected to get the case Wednesday morning when prosecutors complete their final rebuttal.

Masterson has pleaded not guilty to raping three women

at his home between 2001 and 2003. His attorney, Philip Cohen told jurors during his closing that inconsistencies in the women’s stories that he said Anson downplayed are essential and should make it easy for jurors to have reasonable doubt of Masterson’s guilt.

“She did a very nice job of ignoring many of them,” Cohen said. “What she views as little inconsistencies are at the heart of trying to determine, ‘Is somebody, reliable, credible, believable enough for a criminal conviction?’”

He dwelled on one woman testifying that Masterson pulled a gun from a nightstand at one point during the night she said she was attacked, though there was no mention of it in the report from her initial police interview. She insisted she had told police about it then. Cohen said that alone was enough to crater her credibility and introduce reasonable doubt that Masterson is guilty.

Anson took aim at the Church of Scientology, of

which Masterson is a member and all three women are former members, throughout her argument, emphasizing that church authorities kept the women from accepting what had happened to them and from reporting it to police for years.

“The church taught his victims, ‘Rape isn’t rape, you caused this, and above all, you are never allowed to go to law enforcement,’” she said. “In Scientology, the defendant is a celebrity and he is untouchable.”

The church has denied having any policy discouraging members from going to law enforcement.

Actor Leah Remini, a former member of the church who has become one of its most prominent public opponents, sat in the courtroom, her arm around one of the accusers, who testified during both trials that Masterson raped her in 2003.

“Why have we heard so much about Scientology?” Cohen said in his closing. “Could it be because there are problems



Danny Masterson and his wife Bijou Phillips arrive for closing arguments in his second rape trial, Tuesday, May 16, 2023, in Los Angeles.

with the government’s case?”

He emphasized an instruction that said jurors could not hold his religion as a sign against his character, and a stipulation from both sides that no evidence was presented at trial that Masterson had harassed the women.

Cohen said Claire Headley, a

former Scientology official who testified as a prosecution expert in an element not allowed at the first trial, had credibility problems based on an unsuccessful lawsuit against the church and a relationship with Remini.

“She came with a bias and a motive,” Cohen said.

Anson guided jurors through the testimonies of all three women. One is a former girlfriend who said Masterson raped her five years into their relationship in 2001. The two others are women he knew through social circles surrounding the church.

Salman Rushdie warns free expression under threat

LONDON (AP)—Writer Salman Rushdie has made a public speech, nine months after being stabbed and seriously injured onstage, warning that freedom of expression in the West is under its most severe threat in his lifetime.

Rushdie delivered a video message to the British Book Awards, where he was awarded the Freedom to Publish award on Monday evening. Organizers said the honor “acknowledges the determina-

tion of authors, publishers and booksellers who take a stand against intolerance, despite the ongoing threats they face.”

Rushdie, 75, looked thinner than before the attack and wore glasses with one tinted lens. He was blinded in his right eye and suffered nerve damage to his hand when he was attacked at a literary festival in New York state in August.

His alleged assailant, Hadi Matar, has pleaded not guilty



Rushdie

to charges of assault and attempted murder. He told the awards ceremony that “we live in a moment, I think, at which freedom of expression, freedom to publish has not in my lifetime been under such threat in the countries of the West.”

“Now I am sitting here

in the U.S., I have to look at the extraordinary attack on libraries, and books for children in schools,” he said. “The attack on the idea of libraries themselves. It is quite remarkably alarming, and we need to be very aware of it, and to fight against it very hard.”

Rushdie spent years in hiding with police protection after Iran’s Grand Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini issued a fatwa, or edict, in 1989 calling for his death over the alleged blasphemy of the novel

“The Satanic Verses.”

He gradually returned to public life after the Iranian government distanced itself from the order in 1998, saying it would not back any effort to kill Rushdie, though the fatwa was never officially repealed.

Rushdie won the Booker Prize in 1981 for his novel “Midnight’s Children,” and in 2008 was voted the best-ever winner of the prestigious fiction prize. His most recent novel, “Victory City”—completed a month

before the attack—was published in February.

In his speech, Rushdie also criticized publishers who change decades-old books for modern sensibilities, such as large-scale cuts and rewrites to the works of children’s author Roald Dahl and James Bond creator Ian Fleming.

He said publishers should allow books “to come to us from their time and be of their time.”

“And if that’s difficult to take, don’t read it, read another book,” he said.

Woman develops mysterious relationship with neighbor

DEAR ABBY: My girlfriend, “Jana,” and I have been together for 18 years. We live in a small community. About a year ago, a young single guy moved in next door. Jana and “Aiden” took an immediate liking to each other. She’s 64, and he’s 35.

Aiden is on permanent disability, has never had a job and is heavily into drugs. He does odd things like walking down the middle of the street draped in blue lights and sitting in the middle of the street. The police have been called on him so many times he was almost kicked out of the neighborhood.

He and Jana were together all the time—calling, texting and talking in person. They don’t meet so often now because we’ve had so many arguments about it. I was jealous in the beginning. Now I just don’t like her hanging out with him.

She still calls and talks to him, but now she does it only when I’m not around. There doesn’t seem to be anything I can do about it. He’s always outside walking around in front of the house. It makes me very uncomfortable. I’d really appreciate any advice you can give me.

ANXIOUS IN NEW JERSEY

■■■■■

DEAR ANXIOUS: Nothing will change until you get to the bottom of why your girlfriend (of 18 years) continues to pursue this troubled neighbor. Could she be trying to “rescue” him? Does she feel motherly toward him

and have a need to feel needed? Could she have a crush on him? I don’t know, and neither will you until you calmly discuss this with her in such a way that she doesn’t feel attacked when you bring up the subject. Start now.

■■■■■

DEAR ABBY: My granddaughter (who is in her early 30s) is expecting her first child. This will be my first great-grandchild. When she called to invite me to her baby shower, I asked her who was hosting the event. Neither my daughter (her mother), her father, nor I live in the same state she does. (My thought was to contact that person and offer assistance, physically and financially.) She said she and her partner were hosting the event themselves.

When I said, “But hosting your own shower is in poor taste. Usually a friend, co-worker or family member does the hosting,” she became upset. She said times have changed and if they want to host it they can, which would ensure everything is done the way they wanted. She has been very emotional during the pregnancy.

Anyway, she all but uninvited me to the shower and has dodged my calls since the conversation. So, Abby, AM I behind the times? Has that rule of etiquette gone out the window? How can I repair the relationship, which up to this point has been very good?

MANNERED TO A FAULT

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



■■■■■

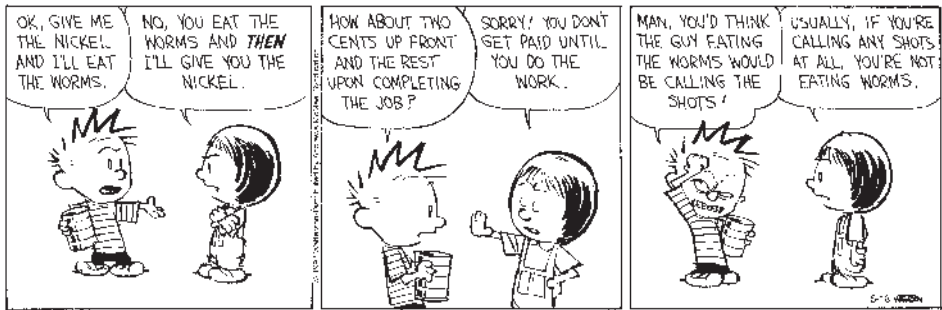
DEAR MANNERED: Many of the ironclad rules of the older generations have fallen by the wayside. The one about who can or cannot host a shower is one of them. Write or email your granddaughter. Apologize for upsetting her and explain that you may need an updated version of your etiquette book. Then offer to help with the shower in any way you can. That’s all you can do. I wish you luck.

To receive a collection of Abby’s most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



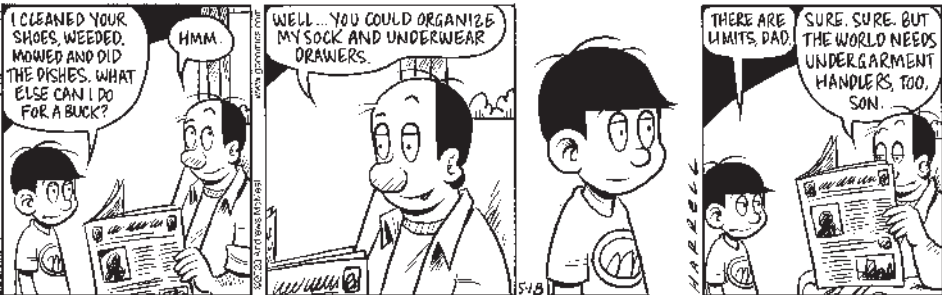
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



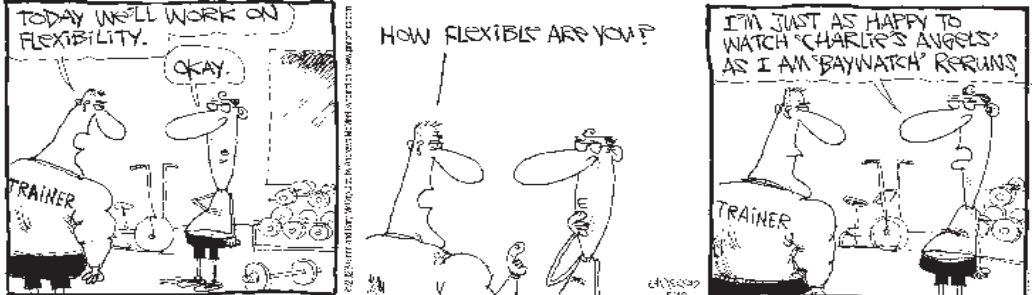
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Mausoleum
5 Bit of butter
8 Tax prep pros
12 Cupid's specialty
13 Year in Mexico
14 Verdi opera
15 Hindu royal
16 Designer monogram
17 Sent a dupe to
18 Stupor
20 Ella's style
22 Separate quarters for a visitor
26 Vegas area
29 Odometer start
30 Sleep acronym
31 Sharpen
32 Glacial
33 Vegetarian's no-no
34 MSN rival
35 Here (Fr.)
36 Expels

DOWN

1 Like lemons
2 Sharif of film
3 "— Lisa"
4 "Show me what you got!"
5 Check recipient
6 Reply (Abbr.)
7 "War and Peace" author
8 Chocolate source
9 Visualizes
10 Citric beverage
11 Blue
19 Tea holder
21 Comedian Margaret
23 Prefix with "logical"
24 Pants part
25 911 responders
26 Booty
27 Grand
28 Germane
32 Crane of Sleepy Hollow
33 Hot dog condiment
35 Hairy Addams cousin
36 Non-Rx
38 "The Da Vinci Code" monk
39 Greet
42 Curved molding
43 Elizabethan collar
44 Lip
45 Kitty's doc
46 Altar affirmative
48 Bathroom, to a Brit

Solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterday's answer 5-18

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jona Xiao, 34; Tina Fey, 53; George Strait, 71; Reggie Jackson, 77.

Happy Birthday: Your steady pace and determination will help you reach your destination. Disregarding what's said and relying on your common sense and appreciation for doing things right the first time will give you the edge you require this year to satisfy your needs. Shoot for the stars, and you'll outshine anyone who tries to get in your way. Romance is favored. Your numbers are 4, 10, 22, 33, 37, 42, 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Slow down, note every detail, adjust what doesn't fit your lifestyle and go about your business. The less interference you allow from others, the quicker you'll advance. Fend for yourself, and you'll outdo anyone who gets in the way. Do what comes naturally. ★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Locate your target and head for the exit. Choose your path and carry yourself every step of the way. Opportunity comes to those who make it happen. Size up your situation and replace whatever isn't to your advantage with something beneficial. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You must be open-minded if you expect others to include you in trends. The more knowledge you gather, the easier it will be to figure out how to use your skills to gain momentum and get your place in the spotlight. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Build a team to help get your plans up and running. Choose people you can trust to get the job done without supervision. Use your

skills and intuition; you won't be disappointed with the outcome. Romance is favored. ★★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Keep busy. The less time spent calculating what to do next, the better. Refuse to let outside interference infiltrate your plans. Keep your eye on the finish line. Rely on experience, dealing with experts and keeping a steady pace. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Choose a path, and don't stop until you reach your destination. You'll learn from whatever situation you find yourself in today. Don't hesitate to confront problems, make changes and take advantage of whatever comes your way. Love is favored and opportunities plentiful. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Assess what's happening in your life. Go over your essential documents to ensure everything is updated. Take care of a debt, clutter and emotional situations that take up too much of your time. Make fitness and nutrition your priorities. ★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You have the right moves and expertise to launch your goals. Speed up and trust your instincts, and you'll come out on top. Put your best foot forward; personal growth will follow. Love and romance will boost your morale. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): A timeout will help you put things in perspective. Don't feel threatened by anyone or trust or believe in what someone tells you without verifying the facts. Put your cash in a safe place. Invest in yourself and pursue knowledge and skills. ★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Compromise and work alongside others, and you'll get your way. An enthusiastic attitude will position you for leadership. A partnership will help you get things done faster and allow you more time to hone your skills and do what you do best. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Stop, look and listen, and you'll prevent a falling-out with a friend, lover or relative. Understanding what others want will help you make good decisions for everyone involved. Don't compensate for others' mistakes. Put yourself first, and success will follow. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Your drive will outshine anyone who wants to compete. Sign up for events or competitions that excite you. A little love will go a long way. Reach out to someone you want to get to know better. Romance is in the stars. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You are admired, charismatic and diligent. You are comprehensive and direct.

★: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ★★: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ★★★: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ★★★★★: Aim high; start new projects. ★★★★★: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

		6	7					1	8	
4					9	8				3
							2		7	
6	7			1				3	2	
					2	3		8		7
8	2					5				
			6	4						
		9						3	2	4
1		2						6	8	

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

8	4	3	5	1	9	2	7	6
2	6	7	8	4	3	9	1	5
1	5	9	2	6	7	4	3	8
9	3	4	7	8	6	1	5	2
6	1	2	3	5	4	8	9	7
7	8	5	1	9	2	6	4	3
4	2	8	9	7	5	3	6	1
5	9	1	6	3	8	7	2	4
3	7	6	4	2	1	5	8	9

Difficulty: ★★★ 5/18
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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

PANTALOONS	Solution: 7 letters
D R A W S T R I N G F W O O L	
E E D A M D N A H L L I W T E	
L Z D W N R E D O M A D E R N	
L I E D A S T Y L E P E S A G	
A S N R A I T S C N A N E D T	
R S S E E P S A R S N O I I	
T R E N N M S T E E T D T	
E E L A L U Y N N L S T E I	
U K F I A W O E A E P U M O E	
Q C F L E L A S S I I B O N G	
I I U A A N K L E R T C C R A	
S N R T H E A T E R E E N T T	
Y K N I T T E D N E E K N A N	
H A D J U S T A B L E I C E I	
P O L Y E S T E R O L I A T V	

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Adjustable, Ancient, Ankle, Buttoned, Casual, Comedies, Dell'Arte, Drawstring, Flap, Handmade, Hem, Italian, Kersymore, Knickers, Knitted, Length, Linen, Men's, Modern, Nankeen, Padded, Pantalone, Pants, Physique, Pleats, Polyester, Ruffles, Size, Style, Tailor, Theater, Tradition, Trousers, Twill, Venetian, Vintage, Waist, Wear, Wool
Yesterday's Answer: Smile
The NEW Volume 70 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Jokic leads Nuggets past Lakers 132-126 in West opener



DENVER (AP)—Denver Nuggets guard Kentavious Caldwell-Pope was playing for the Los Angeles Lakers the last time these teams met in the Western Conference finals in the 2020 NBA bubble.

So, what similarities does he see between LeBron James and Nikola Jokic?

"I feel like the only difference is Bron can jump higher than Jokic," Caldwell-Pope declared after Jokic's monster performance fueled the Nuggets' 132-126 win in Game 1 Tuesday night.

"That's really offensive," Jokic replied in faux indignation about his athletic abilities. "I'm joking. I mean, to be compared to one of the best ever — or THE best ever — I think is really cool."

Jokic doesn't really see many similarities in their play: "We affect the game in different ways," Jokic said. "But he's a really good player."

Nobody was better than Jokic on Tuesday night.

Jokic recorded his sixth triple-double of these playoffs with 34 points, 21 rebounds and 14 assists, powering the Nuggets to a 1-0 lead in the series.

Behind Jokic's sizzling start and strong finish, and Jamal Murray's 31 points while battling an ear infection, Denver beat the Lakers in the opener of the West finals for the first time ever.

After a slow start, Anthony Davis had 40 points and 10 rebounds, and James finished with 26 points, 12 boards and nine assists. Austin Reaves chipped in 23 points and fueled L.A.'s desperate fourth-quarter run that nearly erased Denver's 14-point cushion after three.

Caldwell-Pope scored 21 points against his former team. Michael Porter Jr. had 15 points and 10 boards and Bruce Brown added 16 points.

The Nuggets led by as many as 21 but the Lakers pulled within three points twice in the fourth quarter, once on Reaves' 3-pointer at 124-121 and again on James' pair of free throws that made it 129-126 with 1:12 remaining.

"Yeah, it took us a half to get into the game," James said, "and that was pretty much the ballgame right there. They punched us in the mouth to start. ... I know the game is won in 48 minutes, but they set the tone in 24 minutes and we were playing catch-up for the next 24."

In the fourth quarter, Rui Hachimura guarded Jokic, allowing Davis to crowd the paint and make things harder for the Nuggets big man to dominate the paint. But it wasn't enough.



Denver Nuggets center Nikola Jokic (15) argues a call during the first half of Game 1 of the NBA basketball Western Conference Finals series against the Los Angeles Lakers, Tuesday, May 16, 2023, in Denver.

After Jokic sank two free throws with 26 seconds left to give Denver a 131-126 lead, Murray poked the ball from James as he was about to take it to the hoop and Jokic gathered the loose ball before being fouled with 10.9 seconds left. He sank one of two and James misfired from 3 as the seconds ticked off.

"I'd rather clean things up after a win in the Western Conference finals than after a loss, so I will take it," Nuggets coach Michael Malone said. "But much work to do."

Game 2 is Thursday night at Ball Arena, where the top-seeded Nuggets are 7-0 in the playoffs and 41-7 overall, the best home record in the league this season.

Jokic said a day earlier that the Nuggets desperately needed to avoid following in the sneaker-steps of the Memphis Grizzlies and Golden State Warriors, both of whom dropped their home opener to the Lakers and wound up losing in six games.

Moreover, James has won his last 20 playoff series in which his team has won the opener.

The Nuggets hadn't taken Game 1 against the Lakers since 1979, when they won the opener of the best-of-three series only to lose the next two. That's the closest the Nuggets have ever come to eliminating the Lakers, who have beaten Denver three times in the West finals, including in the Florida bubble in 2020.

Flashing his MVP creden-

Spurs wins Wembanyama sweepstakes

CHICAGO (AP)—Victor Wembanyama is set to follow in the footsteps of David Robinson and Tim Duncan, and the San Antonio Spurs are ready to welcome the French phenom.

It sure seems like an ideal pairing.

The Spurs hit the lottery jackpot on Tuesday, landing the No. 1 pick and the right to draft one of the most highly touted prospects in NBA history.

Not since LeBron James made the jump from St. Vincent-St. Mary High School in his hometown of Akron, Ohio, to the NBA two decades ago has a player come with this much fanfare. At 7-foot-3 and with the ability to shoot like a wing player and pass like a point guard, the 19-year-old Wembanyama is expected to make an immediate impact.

And he had a message for San Antonio.

"I'm trying to win a ring ASAP," Wembanyama told ESPN after the lottery results. "So be ready."

It's the third time the Spurs have won the lottery, and on both previous occasions they made picks that paid off for decades. They chose Robinson in 1987, Duncan in 1997, and those Hall of Fame big men were a major part of how the Spurs became a team that won five NBA titles under coach Gregg Popovich.

"x."

General manager Brian Wright called it "an incredible day" for the franchise and the fans.

Charlotte will pick second, Portland moved up to third, and Houston fell to fourth.

"Human nature sets you up to get greedy, so when it was two teams left, yeah, I wanted No. 1, right?" Hornets GM Mitch Kupchak said. "For a second there was a little bit of 'aw shucks' but overall to go from four... to two, it's an incredible stroke of luck."

But to get the No. 1 pick in a year like this?

"People talk about generational talents and you only think on-court skill, but it's bigger than that," Wright said. "Peter talked about his ability to be a great teammate, his ability to think the game, unique challenges. You see him doing things that you wouldn't have even guessed someone could do — his approach, his professionalism. I think when you use the word generational talent, it extends beyond just your ability to put the ball in the basket. And he's unique in so many ways."

The Spurs were 22-60 this season, tied for the second-worst record in the NBA. Popovich and the Spurs have had incredible success with international players in the past — most notably, Manu Ginobili and Tony Parker,

who owns the French team that Wembanyama played for last season.

"He's an incredible young man," NBA Commissioner Adam Silver told ESPN as part of its draft lottery broadcast. "He's 19 years old and I didn't take out a yardstick or meter stick or whatever they use in France, but he seemed all of 7-4 to me. ... He clearly appears to be a generational talent."

Wembanyama finished his regular season with Boulogne-Levallois of France's top pro league earlier Tuesday, his 22-point effort good enough to clinch the league's scoring title. It was shortly past 2 a.m. Wednesday in Paris when the lottery results were revealed, and Wembanyama was gathered with family and friends for a celebration.

"Can't really describe it," Wembanyama said in his interview with ESPN, adding "it's a really special moment."

Finally, he knows where his NBA journey will begin. His agents did not respond to multiple requests for comment from The Associated Press.

"I think the team that has the first choice isn't going to get it wrong," said Vincent Collet, Wembanyama's coach in France and also the coach of the French national team—which Wembanyama

tials in a stunning display of power in the first quarter, Jokic pulled down a dozen boards and dished out five assists to go with eight points. That made him the first player since at least 1997 to have a dozen or more boards and at least five assists in any quarter of an NBA playoff game.

The Lakers used an 11-2 run to cut the deficit to 11 points before Jokic responded with a jaw-dropping 3-pointer over the outstretched arm of Davis that barely fluttered the net at the buzzer, leaving Davis to trudge back to the bench in disbelief.

"Sometimes luck is on our side," Jokic said. "It's a crazy shot, of course."

The "Joker," who missed out on his third consecutive NBA MVP award this year when he was edged by Philadelphia's Joel Embiid, had 19 points, 16 rebounds, seven assists and two blocks by half-time as the Nuggets took a 72-54 lead into the locker room.

"Thank God it's the best-of-seven and it's not the NCAA Tournament," Lakers coach Darvin Ham said. "It's the first to four. We'll be OK, trust me."

is expected to play for this summer at the World Cup and next summer at the 2024 Paris Olympics.

Detroit had the worst record in the NBA and was one of the three teams with the best odds of winning. The Pistons wound up falling all the way to fifth, the worst of their possible outcomes.

The rest of the lottery order: Orlando will pick sixth, Indiana seventh, Washington eighth, Utah ninth, Dallas 10th, Orlando (from Chicago as part of an earlier trade) in 11th, Oklahoma City 12th, Toronto 13th, and New Orleans 14th.

Wright said he woke up at 5 a.m. and wished he could have gone back to sleep. He was so anxious he didn't eat all day. But he did perform his end of a secret handshake he and his 9-year-old son have, hoping it would bring good luck.

Wembanyama is wrapping up his third professional season in France and has been the consensus top pick for months. He wasn't at the lottery because of his game schedule in France. But many of the other top prospects—Scoot Henderon of the G League Ignite, Brandon Miller of Alabama, twin brothers Amen and Auser Thompson of the Overtime Elite program—were in the room to watch the lottery results get unveiled and get a little better idea of where they may be heading to start their NBA careers.

Judge breaks maple leaf sign with HR, Yankees beat Jays



TORONTO (AP)— Aaron Judge's

tiebreaking, two-run homer broke a large maple leaf attached to the front of the Rogers Centre's restaurant, lifting the New York Yankees to a contentious 6-3 win over the Toronto Blue Jays on Tuesday night after pitcher Domingo Germán was ejected for sticky stuff.

Judge was booed while striking out in his first two at-bats following allegations of sign stealing Monday, when he hit a pair of solo homers in a 7-4 win.

With the score 3-3 in the eighth inning Tuesday, Judge stared straight ahead at Erik Swanson (2-2). His 448-foot drive to center chipped a corner of a white maple leaf below the windows of a redesigned social area that opened this year as part of the ballpark's renovation. He has 11 homers this season.

Ryan Weber (1-0) allowed three hits in 2 1/3 scoreless innings for his first Yankees decision. Wandy Peralta earned his third save. Gleyber Torres had two hits and two RBIs. Torres and Harrison Bader each drove in a run in the third and Isiah Kiner-Falefa hit his first homer of the season.

Germán was ejected after he walked to the mound to start the bottom of the fourth and umpires checked his hands for banned sticky stuff.

Toronto got four straight two-out hits in the fifth. Kevin Kiermaier homered, Bo Bichette hit an RBI double and Vladimir Guerrero Jr. chased Ron Marinaccio with an RBI single.

Guerrero was removed from the game after eight innings. He appeared to hurt a leg while fielding Torres' popped bunt in the top half.

TWINS 5, DODGERS 1

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Bailey Ober allowed one run in six innings, Kyle Farmer homered and drove in three runs, and Minnesota defeated Los Angeles as Dodgers ace Clayton Kershaw took the mound three days after the death of his mother.

Marianne Tombaugh died Saturday, according to Ellen Kershaw. The pitcher's wife made the announcement that day during the dedication of a refurbished youth baseball field supported by his charity foundation.

Kershaw (6-3) struck out seven in four innings, but faced constant traffic. The left-hander allowed seven hits, one walk and hit a batter.

Ober (3-0) allowed one run on six hits and struck out six, and Willi Castro had two hits,

including an RBI single, and two stolen bases for the AL Central-leading Twins, who have won five of seven.

The Twins got their lead-off batter aboard four times and converted that into runs three times.

MARLINS 5, NATIONALS 4

MIAMI (AP)—Jorge Soler hit a two-run, walk-off homer as Miami rallied to beat Washington.

The Marlins were down to their last out when Garrett Cooper doubled off reliever Hunter Harvey (2-1). Luis Arraez singled to score Cooper and pull Miami within 4-3. Pinch-runner Jon Berti stole second before Soler drove a 3-2 pitch by Harvey over the wall in left-center for his 10th homer and the come-from-behind win.

Arraez and Cooper each had two hits, Andrew Nardi (3-1) pitched a scoreless ninth and earned the victory.

Trailing 2-1, the Nationals scored three runs in the eighth inning against relievers Huascar Brazoban and Steven Okert. Jeimer Candelario hit a game-tying single off Brazoban, and Dominic Smith tagged Okert for a two-run single and a short-lived 4-2 lead.

Washington starter Josiah Gray gave up seven hits, struck out five and walked three. Lane Thomas hit a solo homer in the sixth inning.

RED SOX 9, MARINERS 4

BOSTON (AP)—Masataka Yoshida doubled, tripled and drove in three runs while scoring on a wild pitch, and Boston ended a four-game losing streak with a win over Seattle.

Justin Turner, Triston Casas and Jarren Duran homered for Boston, which was swept by the last-place St. Louis Cardinals and lost the series opener to Seattle.

Nick Pivetta (3-3) allowed four runs on six hits and four walks, striking out six in 5 1/3 innings.

Taylor Trammell homered for Seattle, which had won three out of four and 10 of 14 since starting the season 11-16.

RAYS 8, METS 5

NEW YORK (AP)—Isaac Paredes homered twice and drove in five runs, ruining Justin Verlander's home debut for New York, as Tampa Bay rolled to the win.

Jose Siri also went deep and Harold Ramirez had two RBI singles among his three hits for the Rays, who improved the best record in baseball to 32-11. Yonny Chirinos (2-1) got 14 outs in relief after opener Jalen Beeks tossed two



New York Yankees' Aaron Judge is congratulated for his two-run home run against the Toronto Blue Jays during the eighth inning of a baseball game Tuesday, May 16, 2023, in Toronto.

scoreless innings.

New York trailed 6-0 before Brett Baty homered and Pete Alonso launched a two-run shot. Pinch-hitter Eduardo Escobar connected for a two-run homer in the ninth off Jake Diekmann.

RANGERS 7, BRAVES 4

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Adolis García extended his MLB-leading RBIs total to 44 with a two-run homer, Dane Dunning was solid while filling the rotation spot of injured ace Jacob deGrom and Texas beat Atlanta in an interleague matchup of division leaders and won for the eighth time in 10 games.

Dunning (4-0) allowed one run over six innings in his third start since deGrom went on the injured list April 29 because of elbow inflammation. He had four strikeouts without a walk. Will Smith picked up his eighth save in nine chances.

Ronald Acuña Jr. homered for the third game in a row for the NL East-leading Braves (26-16), who lost for the fifth time in six games.

Jared Shuster (0-2), Atlanta's top pitching prospect recalled from Triple-A Gwinnett, didn't allow a hit until a leadoff single in the fourth. Nathaniel Lowe had an RBI double before García's 11th homer.

ORIOLES 7, ANGELS 3

BALTIMORE (AP)—Ryan Mountcastle hit a two-run homer and doubled after entering the game as a pinch-hitter, and Baltimore defeated Los Angeles.

Dean Kremer (5-1) rebounded after allowing a homer by Mickey Moniak to lead off the game, winning his third straight start, and Ryan O'Hearn also homered for

Baltimore. O'Hearn started as designated hitter in the No. 9 spot, but after his solo shot in the second tied the game at 1, Mountcastle pinch-hit for him after the Angels lifted right-hander Chase Silseth (0-1) in the fourth. Cedric Mullins, Jorge Mateo and Tarrin Vavra also drove in runs for Baltimore.

TIGERS 4, PIRATES 0

DETROIT (AP)—Michael Lorenzen had a season-high seven strikeouts in six innings, Spencer Torkelson doubled twice and Detroit beat slumping Pittsburgh.

Lorenzen (2-2) gave up five hits and two walks and has allowed just two runs in his last three starts. Riley Greene had three hits.

Shut out for the second time in three games, Pittsburgh has lost 12 of 14 games while scoring just 22 runs. Luis Ortiz (0-2) allowed four runs, three earned, and seven hits in three-plus innings.

WHITE SOX 8, GUARDIANS 3

CHICAGO (AP)—Luis Robert Jr. homered for the fourth straight game, Gavin Sheets and Jake Burger went deep off Shane Bieber in Chicago's six-run fifth inning in a victory over Cleveland.

Lance Lynn (2-5) allowed three runs—one earned—on seven hits in seven innings. He struck out seven and walked none.

Robert's solo shot to deep left in the eighth was his AL-leading 12th homer of the season. He became the first White Sox player to homer in four consecutive games since Matt Davidson in 2017.

Sheets' three-run shot and Burger's two-run drive were among six straight hits by the White Sox with two outs in the fifth as Chicago jumped

ahead 6-0.

ASTROS 7, CUBS 3

HOUSTON (AP)—Yordan Alvarez had two hits and drove in two runs and Chas McCormick added two hits and made a nifty grab in Houston's win over Chicago.

Justin Steele (6-1) hadn't given up more than three runs in a game this season before the Astros jumped on him for four runs in the fourth inning for a 5-1 lead. Steele allowed five hits and five runs with eight strikeouts in six innings.

The Astros had four of their season-high six doubles in that inning en route to their third consecutive victory. Houston starter Cristian Javier (4-1) allowed two hits and one run in six innings for his second straight win.

ROYALS 5, PADRES 4

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Salvador Perez hit a two-run double in Kansas City's five-run second, Brady Singer pitched six solid innings and the Royals snapped a four-game skid with a win over San Diego.

The Royals jumped on starter Seth Lugo (3-3) in the second, with Bobby Witt Jr., Nate Eaton and Matt Duffy also driving in runs. Lugo gave up five runs on four hits in his two innings. The Padres have lost eight of 10.

Singer (3-4) lasted six innings, giving up seven hits and four runs, two of which were earned. Scott Barlow got his fifth save with a scoreless ninth.

The Padres scored two unearned runs in the fifth after consecutive errors by Kansas City's MJ Melendez and Matt Duffy.

GIANTS 4, PHILLIES 3

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Joey Bart's routine pop fly turned into a tiebreaking RBI double and San Francisco

dealt Philadelphia its third straight loss.

With a runner on first and two outs in the fourth inning, Zack Wheeler got Bart to pop up just behind first base. Phillies first baseman Kody Clemens lost track of the ball in the air and a sliding attempt at a catch by second baseman Bryson Stott was unsuccessful, allowing Casey Schmitt to score. LaMonte Wade Jr. followed with an RBI single to give San Francisco a 4-2 lead.

Taylor Rogers (1-2) pitched a scoreless inning with two strikeouts, earning his first win as a member of the Giants. Thairo Estrada and Michael Conforto had RBI singles for San Francisco, which beat Philadelphia for the fifth straight time.

REDS 3, ROCKIES 1

DENVER (AP)—Nick Senzel hit a go-ahead two-run homer in the seventh inning, helping Cincinnati past Colorado.

Colorado's Ezequiel Tovar ended an 0-for-8 skid before breaking up a scoreless game in the bottom of the sixth inning with his third home run of the season. He connected on a 2-1 offering from the Reds' Brandon Williamson, who was making his major league debut and had retired 14 in a row.

Williamson, a 25-year-old left-hander, struck out six in 5 2/3 innings and had allowed only a single to Charlie Blackmon in the first inning before Tovar hit a 415-foot shot to right-center.

Tyler Stephenson drew a two-out walk in the seventh from Peter Lambert (0-1) before Senzel drove the first pitch he saw 429 feet over the center field wall for his fourth homer. The Reds added a run in the top of the eighth on Matt McLain's RBI single.

BREWERS 3, CARDINALS 2

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Nolan Arenado homered for the fifth straight game for St. Louis in a loss to Milwaukee, which got homers from Joey Wiemer and Brian Anderson.

Milwaukee starter Wade Miley came out with a left lat strain in the second inning after throwing 22 pitches. Joel Payamps (2-0), the fourth of six pitchers, got the victory with 1 2/3 innings of work. Devin Williams pitched the final 1 2/3 innings for his sixth save.

St. Louis starter Jordan Montgomery (2-6) pitched 5 1/3 innings, allowing three runs on eight hits with a walk and seven strikeouts. He is 0-6 in seven starts since winning at Milwaukee on April 8.

Celis, Tenorio, Bang top 5K Fun Run, Walk, & Roll

By LEIGH GASES

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REPORTER

Shoko Celis, Shigeki Tenorio, and Ann Bang topped their respective divisions in last Saturday's Mental Health Awareness Month Mind, Body, & Sole 5K Fun Run, Walk, & Roll.

Celis topped the stroller division with a time of 51:59 and second was Donna Ada with a time of 1:47:32.

For the men's division, Tenorio ran in first with a time of 19:35; Chong Nam Lee was second with 22:27; and Landen Taflinger clocked in third with 22:54.

In the women's division, Bang clocked in first with 24:44; second was Jessica



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left to right, Run Saipan race coordinator and CHCC Community Health Outreach Worker Evelyn Pangelinan, first place in the stroller division Shoko Celis, and Run Saipan president Edward Dela Cruz Jr. pose after the Mental Health Awareness Month Mind, Body, & Sole 5K Fun Run, Walk, & Roll last Saturday morning.

Ortiz at 26:51; and third was Kaylen Taflinger at 27:09.

The 5K was hosted by the Commonwealth Healthcare Corps' Community Guidance Center in partnership

with Run Saipan, Public School System's Headstart/Early Headstart Program, Haggan Woong United for Recovery, and many community-based partner agencies and organizations.

"The event aimed to promote physical activity and fitness as a protective factor for good mental health," said Evelyn Pangelinan, Community Health Outreach Worker, under the CHCC CGC System of Care Program.

For Tenorio, he said "The course was a usual course for me. I usually exercise there after work and many events



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left to right, Run Saipan president Edward Dela Cruz Jr., second place Chong Nam Lee, first place Shigeki Tenorio, third place Landen Taflinger, and Run Saipan race coordinator Evelyn Pangelinan pose for a photo after the Mental Health Awareness Month Mind, Body, & Sole 5K Fun Run, Walk, & Roll last Saturday morning.

start from the Fishing Base so I was used to it. These days I walk hills and not much running. But I wanted to try my best to at least go below 20 minutes. It was really hard to keep up the pace but I'm glad I did it. Next time I wanna aim below 19:00."

For Bang she said "As you know, I'm already used to the course because I run 10K everyday on Beach Road Pathway. 'Body, mind & Sole' was the very first event in this local community and it was perfect for all residents."

"Organizers prepared well for participants, so we could enjoy the event. Actually,

my friend encouraged me in the morning of the race that I would win because competitors who run faster than me didn't participate. I was lucky and so pleased to run in this nice race. I will participate in this event next year," she added.

As for the race, Pangelinan, who is also Run Saipan's new race coordinator, said that "There were about 184 on-line registrants and about 70 who checked-in on run day. The 5K run event was well attended, with top finisher categories for male, female, and stroller divisions and raffle with 20+ awesome prizes plus incentives for the first

50 finishers at the end. With positive responses from the community, we hope to have the event again next year."

Pangelinan then said, "We would definitely like to acknowledge and [give] our biggest appreciation and gratitude to so many who were integral in making this event possible."

The sponsors of the event were Run Saipan, Northern Marianas Athletics, Marianas Visitors Authority, Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, CHCC Mobile Outreach, CHCC Dietary, NMC CREES, Saipan Ice & Water Company, Coca Cola Beverage Company, Marianas Pacific Distributors, Saipan Mayor's Office, DLNR-Parks & Recreation Division, DFEMS, DPS, and volunteers from PSS, CLI, and Haggan Woong United for Recovery; we also want to thank our donors who support mental health awareness and who promote positive environments for community events such as this: Latte Built, Gold's Gym Saipan, Triple J Enterprises-Great Harvest and Surf Club, T-Bar Café, Caravan of Food, The Shack Saipan, 4-Ever CNMI, The Pacific Supply, McDonald's Saipan, Java Joe's Saipan, and Happy Market As Lito.

SUFC

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thirst for goals. Maximus Taitano drew first blood only four minutes into the game and did not let up as he scored the second goal in the 10th minute.

Matansa had yet to find an opening and accurate shots at the goal, and even before the first half ended, they were down, 5-0 as Kanoa's Rooney Gil scored two and Taitano completed the hat-trick in the 21st minute.

When it seemed like Matansa was out for the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Shirley's Football Club is the 12U boys division champion of the TakeCare NMIFA Youth Spring League 2023 after their championship game last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

count, they conjured a goal out of thin air as Bennet Haro made it a 5-1 game in the 42nd minute. However, time quickly expired and Kanoa's defenses held them off to win the title.

With Taitano and Gil in the lineup are Zuriel Abejo, D'artagnan Enerio, Damien Concepcion, Ronald Manabat, Akoni Matsumoto, Jayson Tagabuel, Aldric Antonio, Arstin Tagabuel, and

Jude Rayphand.

In the lone 12U championship game, No. 2 seed Shirley's FC boys upset No. 1 seed Kanoa FC by winning the penalty shootout.

Both teams were evenly matched in the regulation game and went into extra time but were still tied at 2-2.

Kanoa's R.J. Manabat scored both of their goals, while Charles Molina scored both of Shirley's goals.

In the penalty shootout, Manabat scored just one, while Mayten Pino, Jeny Pino, and Molina scored three to bag the championship.

With Molina, M. Pino and J. Pino in the Shirley's roster are DK Pino, Jie Manahan, Calen Cabrera, Adam Dela Cruz, FJ Esefou, Marvic Javaluyas, Izaiah Haro, Gian Sauson, Andrei Tenorio, and John Babauta.

NEW

From Page 20

The Pelisamen brothers again led the Oleai team's charge with Freddie pumping in 21 markers and Ben adding 16 points. Jun Tabora fired a game-high 22 points for JSN, which finished the eliminations with a 3-4 mark.

The Game actually began the evening on a positive note after eclipsing JTM Saipan, 82-67, in the third game to conclude their April 21 contest in the open division.

Greg Deleon Guerrero led a balanced The Game attack with 14 points, while Matthew Richardson and Steve King added 11 points apiece. JTM Saipan, which closed with a 5-5 mark, was paced by the 12 markers of Jude Tengco with Jonel Broncano and Bryan Bernardo punching in 10 apiece.

First Game

Ol'Aces 91 – F. Pelisamen 21, B. Pelisamen 16, Tudela 12, George 12, Libuw 11, Mendiola 6, Rangamar 5, D. Joab 4, B. Joab 4.

JSN Enterprises 86 – Tabora 22, Ocampo 14, Elchico 12, Wesley 12, Santos 10, Zapata 6, Villanueva 6, Joyner 2, Samson 2.

Scoring by quarters: 15-20, 36-40, 55-58, 91-86.

Second Game

New Changming Market 71 – Castro 19, Santos 12, Deleon Guerrero 8, Pastrana 7, Almario 7, Apasan 6, Gontar 4, Standish 4, Aranda 3, Flores 1.

Ali'i 55 – De Guzman 18, Elchicho 15, Esdreton 6, D. Mateo 4, Leong 4, De Dios 4, N. Mateo 3, Castro 1.

Scoring by quarters: 16-12, 32-26, 52-38, 71-55.

Third Game

The Game 82 – Deleon Guerrero 14, Richardson 11, King 11, Arellano 10, Ferrari 6, Natividad 6, Mizutani 6, Sablan 5, Bravo 3, Chua 2.

JTM Saipan 67 – Tengco 12, Ferrer 10, Jone. Broncano 10, Bernardo 10, Dancel 9, Bayna 5, Romo 4, Jona. Broncano 2, Demonteverde 2, Rodrigo 2.

Scoring by quarters: 22-16, 43-29, 60-47, 82-67.

Fourth Game

New Changming Market 91 – Aranda 15, Almario 14, Pastrana 12, Flores 12, Castro 9, Quan 8, Santos 7, Apasan 5, Deleon Guerrero 3.

The Game 63 – Sablan 15, King 10, Mizutani 9, Deleon Guerrero 6, Bravo 5, Chua 4, Sablan 3, Richardson 3, Hernandez 3, Natividad 3.

Scoring by quarters: 15-12, 46-26, 69-41, 91-63.

TEAM

From Page 20

catch up to.

Jack Aranda rang in a 3-pointer to start off the game and with assists and open shots, along with multiple fouls to Coby Santos, the first quarter ended in their favor, 22-12.

Save More was drowning and could not save themselves even as their leading scorer Jet Jandoc tried to throw a buoy of 15 points—but it wasn't enough to get them out of deep water.

By the third quarter, Save More was behind, 75-48, and Team Marianas' Ervin Villarin took the game home in the last quarter as he banked 10 of their 23 points.

Eli Garcia scored the most for Team Marianas with his 24 markers.

In the first game of the night, Martech-Ol'Aces went into triple digits, 109-78, against Socho.

The first minutes of the

first quarter was all Martech-Ol'Aces when they sunk in accurate shot after accurate shot from the paint and also from 3-point territory.

Airson Atan sprinkled in a couple of free throws after his 4 markers and Kevin Kabiriel complemented him with two three-pointers.

Socho could not regroup as they put up just 9 to Martech's 24 heading into the second quarter.

Socho continued on their downward spiral in the last two quarters with Martech never losing steam.

Atan continued his ball-to-basket domination and ended the game with 25 points and led his team to victory along with Preston Basa not skipping a beat with his three 3-point shots and one field goal.

Team Marianas and Martech Ol'Aces are in the winners bracket with one win each and will face off against each other in the second round. Meanwhile, Socho and Save More are in the losers bracket.

Tonight is the game between Ali'i-Blue Haus and La Mesa Kusina at 6pm; New Changming Market will face off against CK Saints at 7:30pm.

First Game

Martech Ol'Aces 109 – Air. Atan 26, Kabiriel 14, Schmidt 12, P. Basa 11, Aif. Atan 9, Lizama 7, Pelisamen 6, Onopwy, T. Basa 4, Brungard 4.

Socho 78 – H. Aguon 19, G. Pangelinan 17, Mettao 10, Taisague 12, D. Faisao 6, Limes 5, Lizama 2, Q. Faisao 2.

Scoring by quarters: 24-9, 53-37, 85-55, 109-78.

Second Game

Team Marianas 98 – Garcia 24, G. Sablan 20, K. Santos 13, C. Santos 11, Villarin 10, Aldan 9, Aranda 5, Raqueto 2, J. Sablan 2.

Save More 65 – Jandoc 15, David 10, Torres 9, Bernardo 8, Tekiupua 6, Genese, Solis 4, Mejarito 4, Dancel 3, Vicente 2.

Scoring by quarters: 22-12, 49-27, 75-48, 98-65.



Jokic leads
Nuggets past
Lakers 132-126 in
West opener.

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Celis, Tenorio,
Bang top 5K Fun
Run, Walk, & Roll.

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20 THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2023

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

SUFC, Kanoa 1 are 14U champions



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kanoa Football Club is the boys 14U division champion in the TakeCare NMIFA Youth Spring League 2023 after their championship game last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

By LEIGH GASES

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REPORTER

The 14U girls of Southern United Football Club, the 14U Kanoa 1 boys, and the 12U boys of Shirley's FC are the soccer champions of the TakeCare NMIFA Youth Spring League 2023 after their championship games last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.



Top seed SUFC

hushed second seed Kanoa, 2-0; Kanoa 1 ran Matansa FC ragged through the pitch and won, 5-1; while Shirley's triumphed over Kanoa via penalty shootout, 5-3.

» Shirley's claim 12U boys title

could not get on the board. Along with Saralu in the roster are Selena Atalig, Kaila Mendiola, Rosie Saralu, Precious Castro, Brianne Echallico, Phangwadee Claridades, Jesabelle Selem, Jadine Higgins, Kalie Kalen, and Laila Castro.

The Kanoa 1 boys laced up their cleats and went to battle against Matansa FC and eventually won the war.

From the sound of the horn, Kanoa came onto the battlefield with aggressiveness and a

See SUFC on Page 19



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Southern United Football Club defeated Kanoa FC for the 14U girls division championship TakeCare NMIFA Youth Spring League 2023 after their championship game last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

New Changming sweeps makeup matches

By MARK RABAGO

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ASSOCIATE EDITOR



New Changming Market secured the No. 2 seed in the open division after posting back-to-back wins in a slew of makeup games in the 2nd Annual Saipan Centennial Lions Basketball League last Monday at the Civic Center Basketball Court in Susupe.

Win No. 1 came in the second game of the scheduled quadruple-header when New Changming beat Ali'i, 71-55, in a game originally played last April 17.

Jeffrey Castro led them in this one with 19 points with Keith Santos chipping in 12 points. Ali'i, which resumed the game with none of their big men, was paced by the 18



MARK RABAGO

New Changming Market's Shane Deleon Guerrero drives against Ali'i's Elmer Esdreton in the open division of the 2nd Annual Saipan Centennial Lions Basketball League last Monday at the Civic Center Basketball Court in Susupe.

points of Jaymark De Guzman and 15 points of Carlos Elchico.

New Changming then finished its elimination round assignments with an 8-2 record after a 91-63 dumping of The Game in the fourth game Monday.

The match, which was originally played last April 28, had Jack Aranda's 15 points and Alvin Almario's 14 points spearhead New Changming's win, while The Game was led by Greg Sablan and Steve King 15 and 10 points, respectively. The Game ended the regular season at an even-stein 5-5 record.

In the first game, Ol'Aces improved to 4-2 in the masters division after edging JSN Enterprises, 91-86, in the continuation of their April 27 match.

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Team Marianas, Martech-Ol'Aces prevail as playoffs start

By LEIGH GASES

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REPORTER



Team Marianas and Martech-Ol'Aces

prevailed in the opening round of the 2023 Michelob Ultra Cup Men's Islandwide Basketball League playoff last Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada

Gymnasium.

The last game of the night between CNMI national basketball pool players and Save More saw Team Marianas overwhelm them, 98-65.

Team Marianas showed why they represent the CNMI as they played an aggressive and speedy stance that Save More could not

See TEAM on Page 19



LEIGH GASES

Team Marianas' Eli Garcia goes up for a layup but gets fouled by a Save More player during their playoff game in the 2023 Michelob Ultra Cup Men's Islandwide Basketball League Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.